

Department of Fish and Game

Habitat Section Southeast Region Office

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FISH HABITAT PERMITS FH21-I-0039-GP through FH21-I-0043-GP

ISSUED: March 30, 2021 **EXPIRES:** December 31, 2025

General Public:

RE: Stream Crossings—Kruzof Island Road System

Sections 8, 19, 26, T 54S, R 61E, CRM (Sitka A-6)

Stream Number 113-45-10060-2010-3050

Location: 59.1606 N, 135.6784 W (FH21-I-0039-GP)

Stream Number 113-45-10030

Location: 59.1754 N, 135.7648 W (FH21-I-0040-GP) Location: 59.1959 N, 135.7598 W (FH21-I-0042-GP)

Stream Number 113-45-10030-2051

Location: 59.1770 N, 135.7662 W (FH21-I-0041-GP)

Stream Number 113-45-10030-2114

Location: 59.1964 N, 135.7591 W (FH21-I-0043-GP)

The United States Forest Service (USFS) maintains a road system throughout Kruzof Island near Sitka for public use with off-highway vehicles (OHVs). The USFS recently upgraded portions of the road and improved stream crossing structures by replacing or removing culverts and installing hardened fords.

Pursuant to AS 16.05.871(b), ADF&G has determined the public interest is served and resources and fish habitats are properly protected through issuance of General Permits authorizing five stream crossings with OHVs on the hardened fords within the Kruzof Island road system, as shown on the enclosed map. FH21-I-0040-GP replaces FH19-I-0075-GP.

Anadromous Fish Act

These streams have been specified as being important for the spawning, rearing, or migration of anadromous fishes pursuant to AS 16.05.871(a).

- Stream No. 113-45-10060-2010-3050 is cataloged for coho salmon.
- Stream No. 113-45-10030 is cataloged for coho, chum, and pink salmon.
- Stream No. 113-45-10030-2114 is cataloged for coho salmon.
- Stream No. 113-45-10030-2051 is cataloged for coho salmon.

In accordance with AS 16.05.871(d), public use of the existing hardened fords is approved subject to the project description and permit terms, and the following stipulations:

- 1. OHV operations in streams shall be limited to that necessary to safely cross the water body in the most direct manner;
- 2. OHVs may not be refueled, serviced, or parked below the ordinary high water mark of streams;
- 3. Equipment leaking fuel, hydraulic fluid, or other pollutants shall not be operated below the ordinary high water mark of streams; and
- 4. The streambed, streambanks, and existing constructed fords shall not be altered or disturbed to facilitate stream crossings.

Permit Terms

This letter constitutes a permit issued under the authority of AS 16.05.871. Please be advised that this determination applies only to Habitat Section regulated activities; other agencies also may have jurisdiction under their respective authorities. This determination does not relieve you of your responsibility to secure other state, federal, or local permits. You are still required to comply with all other applicable laws.

The vehicle owner and operator (permittee), or the legal guardian of minor dependents, is responsible for the actions of contractors, agents, or other persons who participate in the approved activity. Prior to engaging in any activity that significantly deviates from this approval, the responsible party shall notify Habitat Section and obtain written approval in the form of an individual permit. Any action taken by the permittee or agent of the permittee that increases the activity's overall scope or that negates, alters, or minimizes the intent or effectiveness of any stipulation contained in this permit will be deemed a significant deviation from the approved activity. The final determination as to the significance of any deviation and the need for an individual permit is a Habitat Section responsibility. Therefore, it is recommended that Habitat Section be consulted immediately when a deviation from the approved activity is being considered.

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.

You may appeal the permit decision relating to AS 16.05.871 in accordance with the provisions of AS 44.62.330–630 by requesting a hearing under AS 44.62.370.

Please direct questions about this permit to Habitat Biologist Dylan Krull at (907) 465-6160 or dylan.krull@alaska.gov.

Sincerely,

Doug Vincent-Lang

Commissioner

By: Kate Kanouse

Regional Supervisor

(anouse)

Enclosure: Kruzof Island Road System Fords Location Map

Email cc:

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