



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Fish and Game

HABITAT SECTION
Fairbanks Regional Office

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Fairbanks, AK 99701-1551
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SPECIAL AREA PERMIT

FH24-III-0077-SA

ISSUED: April 9, 2024
EXPIRES: October 31, 2029

Jamie Hollingsworth
Bonanza Creek LTER
University of Alaska Fairbanks
2141 Koyukuk Dr., Ste. 110
Fairbanks, AK 99775

RE: Long-Term Ecological Research Sites
Minto Flats State Game Refuge
T2-4N, R6-9W, FM, Livengood A-4-5, Fairbanks D-4
Median Plot Coordinate (WGS84): 65.0500 N, -149.0000 W

To Jamie Hollingsworth:

Pursuant to 5 AAC 95, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), Habitat Section, has reviewed your proposal to establish monitoring sites for wildland fire research in the Minto Flats State Game Refuge (MFSGR).

Project Description

Up to 70 sites will be selected for a ten-year period, accessed every few years via helicopter during a two-week period **from September 26 to before freeze-up**. Soil core samples up to 3 inches in diameter and 1 meter in length will be collected and standard site characteristics measured. Each site will be marked in a manner that will not impose a public hazard.

Legislatively Designated Special Area

MFSGR (AS 16 20.037) was established to ensure the protection and enhancement of habitat, conservation of fish and wildlife, and guarantee continuation of hunting, fishing, trapping, and other compatible uses. Specific management goals and policies presented in the 1992 Management Plan have been adopted as regulation (5 AAC 95.530).

In accordance with 5 AAC 95, your project is approved subject to the project description, permit terms, and the following stipulations:

- 1) To avoid the disturbance of subsistence moose hunting, **helicopter use to access research sites in the described area between the periods of August 21-27 and September 8-25 each year is NOT authorized under this permit.** Jet/prop boats may be used during these periods to access research sites.
- 2) This authorization does not provide exclusive privilege to use the refuge; thus, the permittee must ensure activities do not conflict with other users of the refuge.
- 3) The wall of core samples holes shall be breached to fill the hole to the extent practicable.
- 4) Stations shall be marked in a manner to prevent damage to snowmachines/ATVs. Metal stakes shall not extend higher than 5 inches from ground level.
- 5) All material used for this project shall be removed from each site at the end of the project period, and site disturbance mitigated to the extent practicable.

Permit Terms

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 of ADF&G; 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 ADF&G Habitat Section and obtain written approval in the form of a permit amendment 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 ADF&G Habitat Section. Therefore, it is recommended that you consult the Habitat Section 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.

Please direct questions about this permit to Habitat Biologist Todd Nichols at 907-459-7363 or todd.nichols@alaska.gov.

Sincerely,
Doug Vincent-Lang
Commissioner



By: Audra L. J. Brase
Fairbanks Regional Supervisor

ecc: Clint Cooper, ADF&G WC, Fairbanks
Tony Hollis, ADF&G WC, Fairbanks
Becky Baird, ADNR Lands, Fairbanks
Tammy Massie, ADF&G HAB, Anchorage
Sue Rodman & Adam DuBour, ADF&G WC, Anchorage
Permit Coordinator, ADF&G SF
Al Ott, ADF&G HAB, Fairbanks

TN/AB