



## FISH HABITAT PERMIT

### FH26-III-0085-GP

ISSUED: March 16, 2026  
EXPIRES: December 31, 2030

#### GENERAL PUBLIC

RE: **Motorized Vehicle (Winter Only) Stream Crossing at Traditional Ford Location  
Delta River** (Stream No. 334-40-11000-2490-3390)  
Sec 7-8, 17-18, T9S, R10E, FM, Big Delta A-4  
Median Crossing Coordinate (WGS84): 64.1414 N, -145.8545 W

Pursuant to AS 16.05.871(b) (Anadromous Fish Act), the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), Habitat Section has determined that both the public interest and protection of fish and wildlife will be served with the issuance of this General Public Fish Habitat Permit authorizing the use of wheeled or tracked motorized **vehicles with a gross vehicle weight (GVWR) of 10,000 pounds or less** to cross the described waterbody **only when frozen** within a 500-foot centerline of the referenced crossing site, previously authorized under Fish Habitat Permit FH16-III-0232-GP Amendment 1.

The river crossing corridor (Figs. 1 & 2) is generally the east terminus of four routes known by the following: Alaska Department of Natural Resources (ADNR), Division of Forestry & Fire Protection (DOF&FP) Delta Creek & West Roads; ADF&G Rainbow Lake Trail; and the Whitestone Community Association (WCA) River Road. Two existing public access easements include: ADNR public access (ADL 416534) that spurs from Spengler Road to the east bank of the Delta River; and ADF&G 60-foot public access (ADL 415270) that spans the entire river and floodplain, but lies to the north/downstream of the existing River Road crossing (Fig. 3). *Note: an easement that will cross the river in alignment with the existing crossing is being adjudicated by ADNR.*

The original General Public Fish Habitat Permit (FH12-III-GP-001) for this winter crossing was issued in 2012. Individual permits have been issued since the mid 1980's, primarily to WCA who continue to be the primary permittee that constructs, maintains, and uses the crossing as both a winter and seasonal low water crossing, currently authorized under Fish Habitat Permit FH12-III-0246-A7 and ADNR Land Use Permit LAS 35218.

Note: An individual Fish Habitat Permit is required for use of larger vehicles/equipment at the described crossing sites, **low water crossing during shoulder seasons (fall/spring)**, or any use within the remaining catalogued extent of this waterbody or other waterbodies catalogued as anadromous not described herein.

### **Anadromous Fish Act**

The lower 1.5 mile extent of the Delta River has been specified as being important for the migration, spawning, or rearing of anadromous fishes pursuant to AS 16.05.871(a). This extent of the river provides spawning habitat for coho and chum salmon, and rearing habitat for coho salmon. The system also supports resident fish species such as Arctic grayling. Most of a major fall chum spawning habitat site, approximately 500 feet downstream of the crossing, lies within the Delta River Fall Chum Spawning Area managed by ADF&G, Division of Commercial Fisheries (CF) with ADNR under the amended 1999 interagency land management assignment/agreement (ILMA) ADL 414914 (Fig. 4). Use of the described crossing should not have adverse effects on anadromous fish or their habitat and should not obstruct the free passage of fish.

In accordance with AS 16.05.871(d), crossings are authorized subject to the permit terms with the following stipulations:

- 1) Winter stream crossings shall occur when and where the ice is naturally frozen to the streambed or in areas where ice thickness is adequate to support equipment. Vehicles shall not enter open water during winter. Construction of snow/ice bridges or ramps is not authorized via this permit.
- 2) Any constructed crossing shall not be used or modified in a manner that will degrade or may diminish the function of crossing structures, impedes use of, and/or creates a hazard to other users of the crossing.

### **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 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.

You may appeal this permit decision relating to AS 16.05.871 in accordance with the provisions of AS 44.62.330-630.

Please direct questions about this permit to Habitat Biologist Todd Nichols at 907-459-7363 or [todd.nichols@alaska.gov](mailto:todd.nichols@alaska.gov).

Sincerely,  
Doug Vincent-Lang  
Commissioner



By: Audra L. J. Brase  
Fairbanks Regional Supervisor

Enc: Figs. 1-4. Maps & images showing crossing corridor & ILMA

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tn/AB

Figure 1. Current Delta River crossing alignment with a 500-foot centerline buffer allowing an adjustment of 250 feet up and downstream to adjust for annual variation in river channel/s.

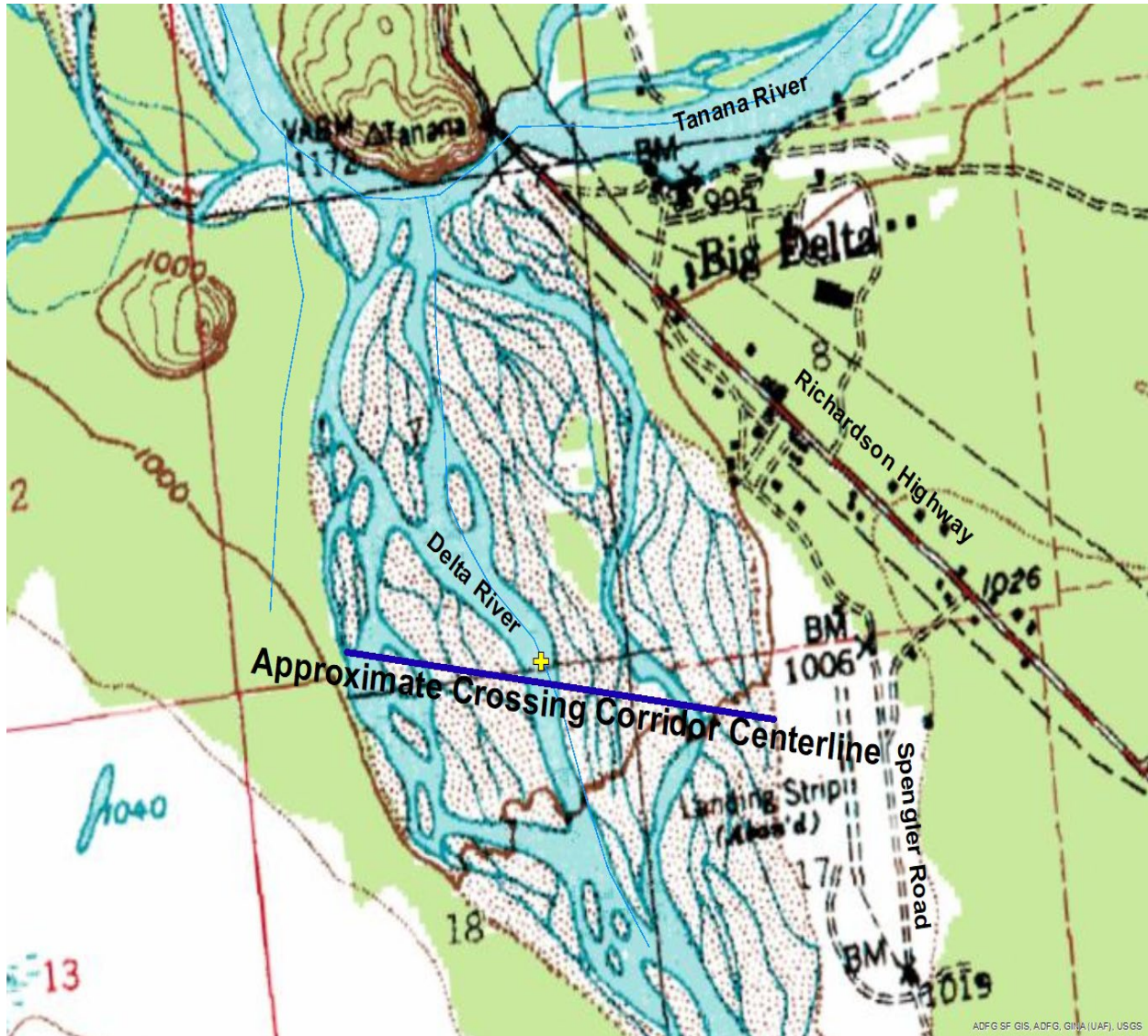


Figure 2. Current crossing alignment with original corridor.



Figure 3. ADNR Mapper showing current easements. The green dashed lines on both banks along the current crossing alignment represent permits associated with maintaining the crossing. No blue line/polygon is in alignment with the current crossing because there is no easement that spans the river along the crossing. The Rainbow Lake Trail was established for ATV and snowmachine use.

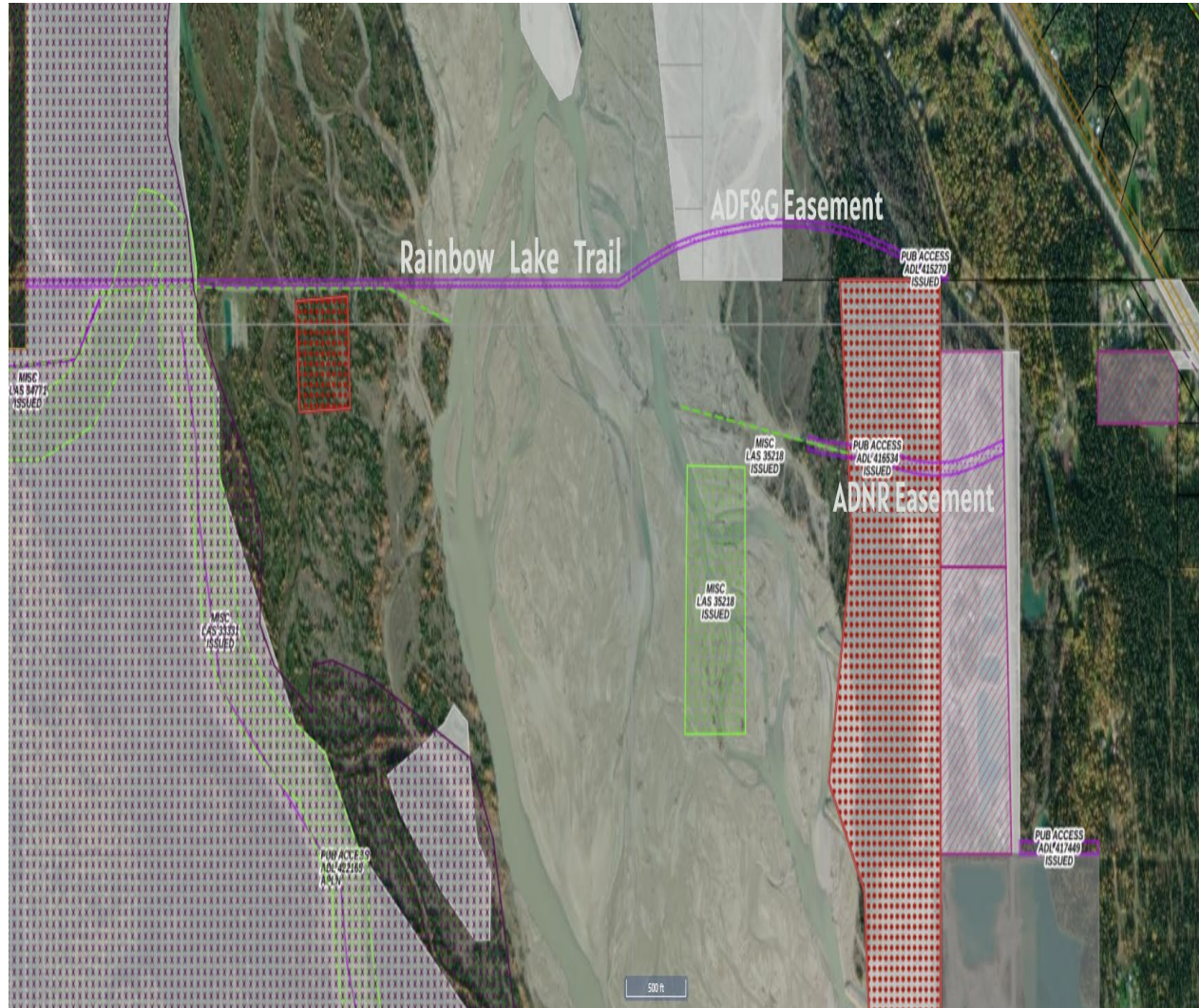


Figure 4. Fall chum salmon management Interagency Land Management Assignment area.

