

MATERIALS GUIDELINES

1. LOCATION OF MATERIALS SOURCES

The preferred order of the sources for the extraction of sand and gravel is listed below. This order was selected based on the other resources present and the sensitivity of those resources to the extraction of materials. Other criteria to be considered in making a final decision on the location of material sources are the location where the materials are to be used, other possible sources outside the unit, and the cost of transporting materials to the proposed development site from alternative sources. A final decision should be based on both costs and impacts on the environment and on proposed or existing uses.

- a. Upland areas in subunit 7.
- b. Inactive floodplain sites in subunit 7.
- c. Subunit 3.
- d. Subunit 1 and sections 1 and 2 of subunit 2 provided that sites are screened from the road and from recreational use areas within these units.
- e. No gravel extraction is allowed in the remainder of subunit 2A or in subunits 2B or 5C, unless no feasible or prudent alternative exists. In that event, a bond will be required of the developer. The amount will be based on the project and will be adequate to repair disturbances created by mining.

2. SCREENING

A natural, topographic, or embankment screen sufficient to shield the material sites and equipment from the view of motorists traveling along the Hatcher Pass Road will be maintained.

3. ACCESS

The access road to a material site will be limited to 40 feet in width and, when practical, constructed with sufficient curvature to prevent direct view of the open excavation by the traveling public on the Hatcher Pass Road. To the extent practical, the material source should be located so that the access to it does not cross streams, wetlands, or other environmentally sensitive areas due to both the cost of constructions and the environmental impact.

4. STREAM CROSSINGS

See Transportation guideline number 3g.

5. VEGETATION REMOVAL

- a. **Utilization of Timber** If there is sufficient volume, standing timber in areas to be excavated should be offered to the public. Trees less than five inches in diameter and brush should be buried or clipped and stockpiled within the site and later used for site rehabilitation.
- b. **When and Where** Vegetation may be removed no more than one year before material site development. The area of vegetation removal will be for the immediate areas of the excavations, access, sites for overburden storage, material stockpiles, and equipment.

6. REHABILITATION

- a. **Overburden** Stripped overburden will be stockpiled within the boundaries of each site. Upon completion of material excavation, the overburden that was temporarily stockpiled will be spread as evenly as possible across the floor of the pit.
- b. **Revegetation Requirement** Material sites will be rehabilitated and revegetated when the project is completed or all desired materials are removed. The expense of the rehabilitation will be borne by the developer. DNR and ADF&G will determine specific rehabilitation requirements on a case-by-case basis.
- c. **Slope Requirement** The sites will be excavated leaving side slopes of 2:1 or flatter, and all excavated surfaces dressed to relatively smooth contours for rehabilitation.
- d. **Fisheries Enhancement** Material sites used for fisheries enhancement will be done in accordance with ADF&G recommendations.

7. SITE MANAGEMENT

- a. **Material Stockpiles** Material stockpiles will be located within the excavated pit when there is adequate room to store them there.
- b. **Equipment** Screen decks, crushers, and hot mix plants should be located within the pit when feasible. Hot mix plants should not be allowed near waters with fisheries values.
- c. **Site Expansion** Excavated slopes suitable for future site expansion will be excavated leaving interim slopes of 2:1 or flatter, but will not be rehabilitated until site expansion is completed. Plans for expansion of material sites must be reviewed by DNR and ADF&G for compatibility with public use, scenic views, and wildlife habitat.

- d. **Fuel Storage Facilities** Stationary fuel storage facilities must not be placed within the annual floodplain of a watercourse and should be located outside of stream/lake buffers. These must be contained or confined in a manner that would prevent any spillage from entering an adjacent waterbody.
- e. **Fueling Activities** Fueling activities shall not be conducted within 100 feet of any lake, river, stream, drainage system, or on an annual floodplain of a watercourse. Such activities shall occur outside stream/lake buffers.
- f. **Fuel Spills** Absorbent material in sufficient quantity to handle operational spills should be on hand at all times for use in the event of fuel spill. The mining plan may require this if the operation is of sufficient size and duration.
- g. **Permanent structures** Permanent structures are prohibited.

8. **BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES**

ADF&G will utilize its manual, *Best Management Practices for Placer Mining*, in issuing its own Title 16 permits and in its review of and development of recommendations for the plan of operations and miscellaneous land use permits for material extraction. Any recommendation by ADF&G for rejection or modification of a miscellaneous land use permit or a plan of operations for material extraction will be based on the *Best Management Practices*. (This document is available from the ADF&G Habitat Division in Anchorage, Palmer, or Fairbanks; local libraries; Division of Mining in Anchorage; and the Division of Land and Water Management Anchorage and Wasilla offices for anyone interested in referencing the document while designing a mining plan of operations.)

9. **WATER QUALITY**

Surface runoff from mining operations must be contained within the working site to prevent discharge to any adjacent surface waters. Any discharge that does occur must meet the Alaska Water Quality Standards and may require an EPA, National Pollution Discharge Elimination System, or DEC wastewater discharge permit.

10. **WATER BODIES AND RIPARIAN HABITAT**

- a. **Water Body Requirements** There shall be no gravel removed below the active water table or within 50 feet of a waterbody unless material extraction is part of a fishery enhancement project and approved as an exception to Groups I and II stream buffer requirements. Fifty feet is a minimum; a greater distance may be specified where necessary due to site conditions. Vegetation will not be disturbed within this buffer zone unless approved by ADF&G.
- b. **Shallow, Even Removal** Gravel shall be removed in shallow, even lifts so as not to create any pits or depressions that could entrap fish after periods of high water.

- c. **ADF&G Guidelines** Material sites used for fisheries enhancement will be done in accordance with ADF&G recommendations.

11. **BUILDING STONE**

Applications to quarry building stone in commercial quantities within the management unit will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Rock quarry operations will be subject to the applicable guidelines for the mining of sand and gravel as well as other applicable guidelines in this chapter.