

Appendix J: Implementation of Commercial Use Policy

A land use authorization from the Southcentral Regional Land Office of the Division of Mining, Land, and Water will be required for commercial use activities taking place within the PUA. Commercial use includes guiding, outfitting, tours, and rental services. Commercial use also includes the solicitation or selling of liquids or edibles for human consumption, and vending of goods, wares, services, or merchandise. Possession of a commercial recreation authorization does not grant a preference right for obtaining future authorizations nor for obtaining land use permits, leases, or other types of permits. Authorizations are non-transferable.

Considerations for Issuing Commercial Use Authorizations

DNR will consider the following criteria before issuing a commercial authorization.

1. Public use values in the Knik Rive Public Use Area will be maintained and protected;
2. Public safety, health, and welfare will not be adversely affected;
3. The activity is consistent with the goals and management intent of the plan; and recreational and natural resources will not be adversely affected.

Grounds for Suspension of Revocation

The following is a list of violations which may result in the revocation or suspension of an authorization.

The following may result in suspension or revocation of a commercial authorization.

1. Violation within the Knik River Public Use Area of laws or regulations protecting public safety and peace
2. Violation of state or federal fish or game regulations
3. Repeated or willful non-compliance with authorization requirements
4. Failure to pay required fees

Allocation

DNR will not limit the number of commercial use authorizations, unless an assessment of the commercial use warrants such a decision and if adequate justification for such an action is found to exist. DNR will monitor commercial use and may determine if limitations are appropriate for the future.

Commercial Camps

Commercial use involving overnight camps must have a land use authorization. A land use authorization provides a guide/outfitter with an authorization to establish a camp at a variety of locations throughout the PUA. Commercial camps generally serve as a center for commercial operations, providing overnight accommodations for guests, guides, and employees. Camps generally include tents for shelter and cooking, and a human waste disposal system. Commercial camps do not include resource management camps or mining camps.

The following guidelines apply to commercial camps on state land.

1. *Term of Use* – A land use permit will be issued for the term of actual use of the camp for the authorized activity, or the minimum length of time required by the applicant to carry out the intended use. Land use permits provide authorization on an annual basis, and in some cases for up to five years. Camps located in Public Use Sites may remain in one place for up to seven days before they must be disassembled and moved to another location at least one mile away. They are not allowed to return to the vacated site for a period of four days. Long term commercial camps will not be authorized in public use sites.
2. *Commercial Use* – Land use permits authorize overnight commercial camps within the Knik River Public Use Area. Land use permit will not be authorized for personal camps.
3. *Siting Criteria* – Camps will be sited consistent with the management intent for the unit. In order to protect public safety, minimize the negative impacts on water quality and public access, and to protect heritage sites, commercial camps will not be authorized:
 - A. in Public Use Sites if operating for more than seven (7) days;
 - B. within 100 feet of a waterbody or wetland;
 - C. near identified heritage sites;
 - D. if they block public easements, heavily used trails identified in the TMP, or seismic lines.

Fees

DNR has established fees for authorizations related to commercial use and will apply these to land authorizations within the PUA. The cost of the permit shall be based on the following:

- **Commercial Day Use Activity.** All commercial businesses using the Knik River Public Use Area on a day use only basis must obtain a land use authorization, and will be charged an annual fee, plus a Visitor Day fee.
- **Commercial Camp Activity.** All commercial businesses using the Knik River Public Use Area on a multiple day overnight basis that utilizes overnight camps must obtain a land use authorization, and will be charged an annual fee, plus a Visitor Day fee.