

# STATE OF ALASKA

## DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

DIVISION OF PARKS & OUTDOOR RECREATION

SARAH PALIN, GOVERNOR

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January 2009

Dear Kenai River Commercial Operator:

We are now accepting applications for 2009 Alaska State Park Non-Competitive Park Use Permit for Commercial Operations for the Kenai River Special Management Area (KRSMA).

### **Kenai River Sport Fishing Guides:**

#### **Issuing of the Guide Vessel Identification Numbers.**

**Starting January 1, 2008, all Kenai River Guides that inform Alaska State Parks that they will no longer be guiding in the KRSMA will have their vessel identification number in dormant status for two years. After the end of the two years the number will be placed on the available list. The procedure for a number to be taken out of the dormancy prior to the end of the two years is if the Kenai River Guide that released the vessel identification number re-registers to guide in the KRSMA. Then the number can be reissued to that guide. If a Kenai River Guide has not registered to guide in the KRSMA for two years their guide vessel identification number will be placed on an available list. All guide vessel identification numbers will be issued randomly by Alaska State Parks from the available numbers list. New numbers may be generated as necessary. Alaska State Parks does not reserve or take requests for specific guide vessel identification numbers.**

#### **Guide Decals**

**The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) have worked together to combine the decals for sport fishing guides that operate in the KRSMA. The DNR Kenai River guide sticker is now 3 ½ inches in diameter compared to the previous 8 inch decal. The DNR decal must be securely affixed on top of the Department of Fish and Game sport fishing guide decal and in the area on the ADF&G sticker designated for the current year sticker. The current DNR Kenai River guide sticker may not be covered or obstructed. A guide vessel shall be identified by displaying the issued DNR Kenai River guide stickers and ADF&G sport fishing guide stickers on both**

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sides of the vessel just aft of the midpoint and directly forward of the assigned three-digit guide vessel number anytime the vessel is being operated in the Kenai River Special Management Area.

### Guide Academy

Effective March 13, 2006 a guide certification course was implemented for the 2006 season.

In 2007, the course became mandatory for anyone who has not held a Kenai River Commercial Guide Permit. New guides need to successfully pass the Kenai River Guide Academy (KRGa) course prior to applying for the permit. Kenai River professional sport fishing guides who held a valid permit prior to Dec. 31, 2005 are required to successfully complete the course within a specified amount of time based on the number of years they served as a Kenai River guide.

Guides holding permits prior to Dec. 31, 2005, need to complete the course per the following schedule:

- One but less than 6 years—successfully complete the course by May 2008.
- Six but less than 11 years—successfully complete the course by May 2009.
- 11 years or more—successfully complete the course the course by May 2011.

**If you have not completed the course based on the enclosed schedule you will not receive a guide permit.**

For more information you can contact the Kenai Peninsula College at 262-0330. A web site is also available with the KRGa information: [www.krga.org](http://www.krga.org)

**Registration by Appointment Only:** You may register in person or by mail. Permit renewals, updated documentation, and correspondence received via email or mail will be processed as soon as we receive it. **IN-PERSON PERMITTING WILL BE DONE BY APPOINTMENT ONLY.** Please call 907-714-2471 or 714-2472 to make an appointment. We will gladly copy paperwork and add information to your file at any time.

**Mandatory Orientation for new Non-Fishing Permittees:** All new non-fishing permittees will be required to attend one 6-hour orientation session. **The orientation dates are April 25, May 16, and June 6.** All of the orientation sessions will be at the Kenai River Center, and are scheduled from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Please call Pam Russell (907-714-2471) at the Kenai River Center to let her know which orientation session you will be attending. You may also email your request to [prussell@borough.kenai.ak.us](mailto:prussell@borough.kenai.ak.us). Requests can be faxed to (907) 260-5992.

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**Coast Guard vessel inspections:** The Coast Guard will be offering pre-season safety checks at the River and Sea Marine parking lot in Soldotna on May 16, 2009, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The **ADF&G Business Owner/Guide License** applications for 2009 are available at ADF&G offices or at the Kenai River Center. Stickers and logbooks will also be available at the Kenai River Center. You will need to pay for the ADF&G Sport Fish license with a separate check or money order. We cannot accept cash or credit cards for this registration. Licenses can be purchased online at: <http://www.sf.adfg.state.ak.us/statewide/Guides/guide.cfm>.

**Permits are required for fishing, tournaments, derbies and organized events in the KRSMA:** Current State Park Regulation (11 AAC 18.010 Special Park Use Permits) requires a permit to be issued for an organized or promoted assembly of more than 20 people. For the Kenai River SMA, due to the size of groups in relation to river corridor, the limit **for on-river activities only**, is increased to groups larger than **40** people. Any promotional, entertainment, spectator, or competitive recreation event that attracts more than **40** people must first obtain a Special Park Use Permit. The Kenai River Comprehensive Management Plan further directs Parks to limit contests and competitions to times that do not occur at the peak of any fishery or during periods of projected low stocks, and are not designed to attract large numbers of additional anglers to the river. Tournaments like the Kenai River Classic are limited in type and scope to those conducted by a 501(C)(3) non-profit organizations and are of a conservation or education theme. Funds generated by such events are to be returned to the Kenai River for conservation or education purposes.

**Commercial operators will be required to pay for boat launching** when using the Kasilof River State Recreation Site or the KRSMA boat launches at the Pillars, Izaak Walton, Bing's Landing, or the Cooper Landing Boat Launch. You may purchase a season decal for \$75.00 or pay the daily launch fee. If you purchase the decal, a second non-transferable decal can be purchased for your business for \$40.00. Third and subsequent decals will be \$75.00 each. Decals can be purchased at the Kenai River Center or you can purchase them from the Volunteer Hosts at the boat launch sites. The boat launch decal does not apply to the Pillars, where all users are required to pay for launching or parking each time. Clients will be required to pay the daily parking fee for their vehicles in any facility in which a parking fee is charged.

**Vessel Registration:** Sport Fishing guides are required to register both powered and non-powered boats. The state registration is valid for three years and will expire at the end of the month in which the boat is first registered. The Certificate of Number must be carried aboard the boat whenever it is in operation. The boat registration form and more information about the program are available on the State of Alaska web site. If you have questions please contact the DMV in the Red Diamond Center on Kalifornsky Beach Road or call them at (907) 262-4681.

**Department of Natural Resources Commercial Recreation Registration:** Commercial users of state land are still required to register with the Department of Natural Resources, Division of Mining, Land and Water (DNR/DMLW). **This does not include State Park Land and Water.** Please contact the Anchorage DNR Public Information Center at (907) 269-8400 with any questions you may have about the registration.

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**Commercial Vehicle Registration:** Any vehicle and/or trailer combination that is used in commerce (commercial purposes) and has a gross vehicle weight rating over 10,000 pounds must be registered as commercial vehicles. Please contact Shawn O'Donnoghue, Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Officer, at 398-7331 if you have any questions or the Sterling Weight Station 262-5400. We will be requiring proof of commercial vehicle registration for all vehicles associated with your business use of state parks.

**Commercial Trailer Plates:** Any vehicles or boat trailers used for a guide business need to be registered commercially. Contact Shawn O'Donnoghue, Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Officer, at 398-7331 if you have any questions or the Sterling Weight Station 262-5400.

**Out of State License Plates:** Please bring proof of Alaska vehicle and trailer registration. Alaska State law requires that persons entering Alaska to work must register their motor vehicles in Alaska, within ten (10) days of arrival. Temporary registration is only valid for 30 days. We will suspend the permits of anyone who does not bring in their permanent registration before the 30-day temporary permit expires. The Park permit will be reinstated once the permanent registration is produced.

**Random Drug Testing:** Operators who are required to hold a U.S Coast Guard License for their business operations in State Parks will be required to present to the State Park permitting staff documentation, including expiration date that they are registered in a marine random drug testing program. The Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation will verify registration in the random testing program and monitor test results. The Division Of Parks and Outdoor Recreation may impose an in-season permit suspension to anyone who has a verified positive test for drugs or alcohol. If you have any questions regarding the drug-testing program, please contact the U.S. Coast Guard in Anchorage at (907) 271-6714 or in Kenai at (907) 283-3292.

**Kenai Peninsula Borough (KPB) Sales Tax: For established sales tax accounts:** Enclosed is the form that you will need to obtain your Account Update. Fill out, sign, and return it in person, or mail it to the KPB Sales Tax Department at 144 North Binkley Street, Soldotna, AK 99669. The KPB will then notify us that your account is valid. **For new tax accounts:** Please contact the KPB Sales Tax Department to open a sales tax account. Once that is accomplished, we will be notified that you have established an account. Please call (907) 714-2175 if you have any questions.

**Kenai River Center:** We are located at 514 Funny River Road, 1.2 miles from the intersection of Funny River Road and the Sterling Highway, on the left just after the "S" turn, and directly across the street from the Soldotna Airport.

**Insurance:** Commercial liability insurance is required. Please make sure that you have a Certificate of Insurance naming the "State of Alaska as additional insured".

**U.S. Forest Service:** An outfitter and guide special use permit with the U.S. Forest Service is required on the Kenai River between Cooper Creek Campground (River Mile 79) and the Sportsman's Landing (River Mile 73.75) if clients are taken to shore for fishing, picnicking, launching, etc. The timeline for applying for an outfitter and guide special use permit is March 1, 2009. Any applications received after this date may not be processed for the 2009 season. Please contact the Seward Ranger District at (907) 224-3374 for permit information.

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**Kenai National Wildlife Refuge:** An outfitter and guide special use permit with the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge is required on the Kenai River between Sportsman's Landing (River Mile 73.75) downstream to and including Skilak Lake (River Mile 50). A permit is also required below Skilak Lake (River Mile 50) to Torpedo Hole (River Mile 45.5), and between River miles 25 to 28 if clients are taken to shore for fishing, picnicking or if you launch or retrieve through Refuge landings. If you do obtain a Refuge permit, please be sure your end of season report to the Refuge reflects all of your "off river use". The deadline for applying for a Refuge outfitter and guide (visitor services) special use permit is April 1, 2009. Please contact Rick Johnston at (907) 262-7021 for permit information or questions regarding your use of the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge.

**Check the Pre-Qualification List:** Please review the enclosed pre-qualification criteria. If you have any additional questions regarding this letter or any matters concerning Non-Competitive Commercial Use Permits call Pam Russell at (907) 714-2471 or email Pam at [prussell@borough.kenai.ak.us](mailto:prussell@borough.kenai.ak.us). or Amber Wheat at (907) 714-2472 or email Amber at [awheat@borough.kenai.ak.us](mailto:awheat@borough.kenai.ak.us)

Good luck and best wishes for a successful business season in 2009.

Sincerely,

Jack E. Sinclair  
Kenai Area Park Superintendent

Enclosures

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