

Appendix F

REQUIREMENTS FOR WINTER TRAVEL

Coastal Management Plan Requirements

Alaska Coastal Management Program (ACMP) requirements apply to roads that require any agency permit and occur within the coastal zone boundary. If a road project requires a federal permit or two or more state permits, then it will be coordinated by the state Division of Governmental Coordination.

Under the statewide Coastal Management Program there is general concurrence for movement of "dozers, sleighs, tracked vehicles, and rubber tired equipment cross country during winter" when conducted under the following conditions.

- ◆ Winter cross country travel may begin when adequate snow cover and frost depth conditions exist for the activities intended as determined by an authorized field representative of DNR. Certain cross country activities may begin sooner than others depending on the impact or magnitude of the operations.
- ◆ Vehicles shall be operated in a manner such that the vegetative mat of the tundra is not disturbed and blading or removal of tundra vegetative cover is prohibited.
- ◆ Existing roads and trails shall be used wherever possible. Trail widths shall be kept to the minimum necessary. Trail surface may be cleared of timber, brush, stumps, and snags.
- ◆ Trails and campsites must be kept clean. All solid waste including incinerator residue shall be backhauled to a solid waste disposal site approved by DEC.
- ◆ All oil and hazardous material spills shall be cleaned up and reported per 18 AAC 75.
- ◆ Snow ramps, snow and ice bridges, or cribbing approved by the DFG shall be used to provide access across frozen rivers, streams and lakes so as to preclude cutting, eroding or degrading of their banks. Alteration of the banks of water courses is prohibited.
- ◆ Snow ramps and snow and ice bridges shall be composed only of snow or ice and shall be substantially free of soil and debris.
- ◆ Snow and ice bridges shall be of sufficient thickness to support all vehicles. There shall be no vehicles or equipment operated within the open water of any river, stream or lake unless waived by DFG.
- ◆ Snow and ice bridges must be removed or breached, and cribbing removed immediately after final use or prior to breakup, whichever occurs first.
- ◆ To avoid additional freeze-down of deep water pools harboring overwintering fish, water courses shall be crossed at shallow riffle areas from point bar to point bar. Compaction or removal of the insulating snowcover from the deep-water pool areas of rivers is prohibited.
- ◆ Fuel storage facilities shall not be placed within 100' of water bodies and must be within an impermeable diked area at 110% capacity of the largest independent fuel container. Manifoldd tanks or bladders must be considered as a container. Vehicle refueling shall not occur within the annual floodplain.
- ◆ Movement through willow (*Salix*) stands shall be avoided wherever possible.
- ◆ Abandonment of vehicles is prohibited.

DNR Permit Information

DNR permits issued by the DNR Division of Land are required for overland winter travel on state land by heavy equipment and gear. Permits are not required for small vehicles such as snowmachines and 4-wheelers. Permits are issued only for activities on lands under the management jurisdiction of the State of Alaska. ACMP stipulations are included with the Division of Land permit if the operation is within an ACMP management area.

General DNR Division of Land permit stipulations are universally applied and constrain the applicant to conduct activity in a manner that minimizes surface impact and causes the least possible interference with other authorized uses of state land. Other more specific DNR Division of Land permit stipulations and bond requirements are crafted from considerations such as management plans for the area traveled, terrain, ecological factors, weather and frost conditions, the type of equipment used, and other special conditions associated with the activity.

Often stipulations are suggested by agencies that review the permit application. These might include consideration of waste disposal, fire suppression, the size of trees that can be disturbed in the course of operation, procedures for the reporting and clean-up of spills of oil or other hazardous substances, construction and breaching of snow and ice bridges, vehicle refueling and maintenance, and historic and archaeological impacts.