



SPECIAL AREA PERMIT FH23-IV-GP14-SA

ISSUED: January 1, 2023
EXPIRES: December 31, 2027

General Public:

Re: Willow Mountain Critical Habitat Area - Off-Road Vehicle Use

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Habitat Section has determined that both the public interest and the proper protection of fish and wildlife and their habitats would be served through issuance of a General Permit authorizing the use of off-road motorized vehicles less than 1,000 pounds gross vehicle weight in the Willow Mountain Critical Habitat Area (WMCHA). The off-road use of any vehicle in excess of 1,000 pounds gross vehicle weight is not authorized under this General Permit. The off-road vehicle use on frozen water surfaces along designated trails within WMCHA is authorized under General Permit FH23-IV-0008-GP.

The WMCHA was established in 1989 pursuant to AS 16.20.500 to protect and preserve fish and wildlife habitat. In accordance with 5 AAC 95 and 5 AAC 95.770, the Habitat Section hereby approves the operation of any wheeled, tracked, or other ground effect motorized vehicle (including snow machines) weighing less than 1,000 pounds gross vehicle weight subject to the following stipulations:

1. **This permit must be in your possession during off-road vehicle activities.**
2. From April 1 to November 30, authorized vehicles shall operate only on designated trails for the purpose of personal transit or recreation. See enclosed map for designated trail locations.
3. From December 1 to March 31, vehicles may operate on all refuge land provided there is at least twelve inches (12") of snow cover and sufficient ground frost to prevent the disturbance of the soil surface or plant roots. In addition, ice cover on wetlands or other waterbodies must be of sufficient thickness to support the weight-bearing load of the off-road vehicle. In the absence of sufficient snow cover and ground frost, vehicles (including snowmachines) shall operate only on designated trails.
4. No vehicles leaking fuel, oil, hydraulic fluid, or other pollutants shall be operated in the WMCHA.
5. Harassment of wildlife, including any activity that displaces wildlife, is prohibited, except legal and permitted hunting, fishing, and gathering of fish and game.
6. Vehicle use shall not restrict public access to and use of fish and wildlife resources.
7. No vehicle shall be operated in the open waters below the ordinary high water line (vegetation line) of any river, lake, or stream specified to contain anadromous fishes.
8. No material of any kind, including vehicles, waste products, debris, supplies, or equipment shall be stored or disposed of within the WMCHA.

This letter constitutes a permit issued under the authority of AS 16.20.530 and must be retained on site during project activities. Please be advised that this determination applies only to activities regulated by the Habitat Section; 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 Habitat Section and obtain written approval in the form of a permit amendment in accordance with 5 AAC 95.740 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 Habitat Section. Therefore, we recommend you consult the Habitat Section immediately 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.

Any questions or concerns about this permit please call the Habitat Section at (907) 861-3200.

Sincerely,

Doug Vincent-Lang
Commissioner



By: Sarah Myers
Matanuska-Susitna Area Manager
Habitat Section
(907) 861-3200

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Enclosures: Willow Mountain Critical Habitat Area Map

cc:	A. Ott, Habitat	S. Ivey, SF	A. Dubour, WC	Permits, SF
	D. Dahl, AWT	R. Lysdahl, AWT	D. Hill, WC	J. Meehan, WC
	S. Myers, Habitat	T. Peltier, WC	C. Larson, DNR	Pagemaster, COE
	M. Carter, WC	T. Massie, Habitat	C. Shook, SF	

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003W

002W

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Willow Mountain Critical Habitat Area

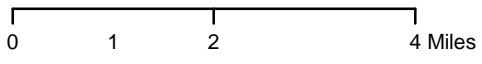
WILLOW MOUNTAIN
CHA Boundary

Designated and Approved
ORV Trails

Roads



Map Produced by
State of Alaska
Dept. of Fish and Game
December 2009



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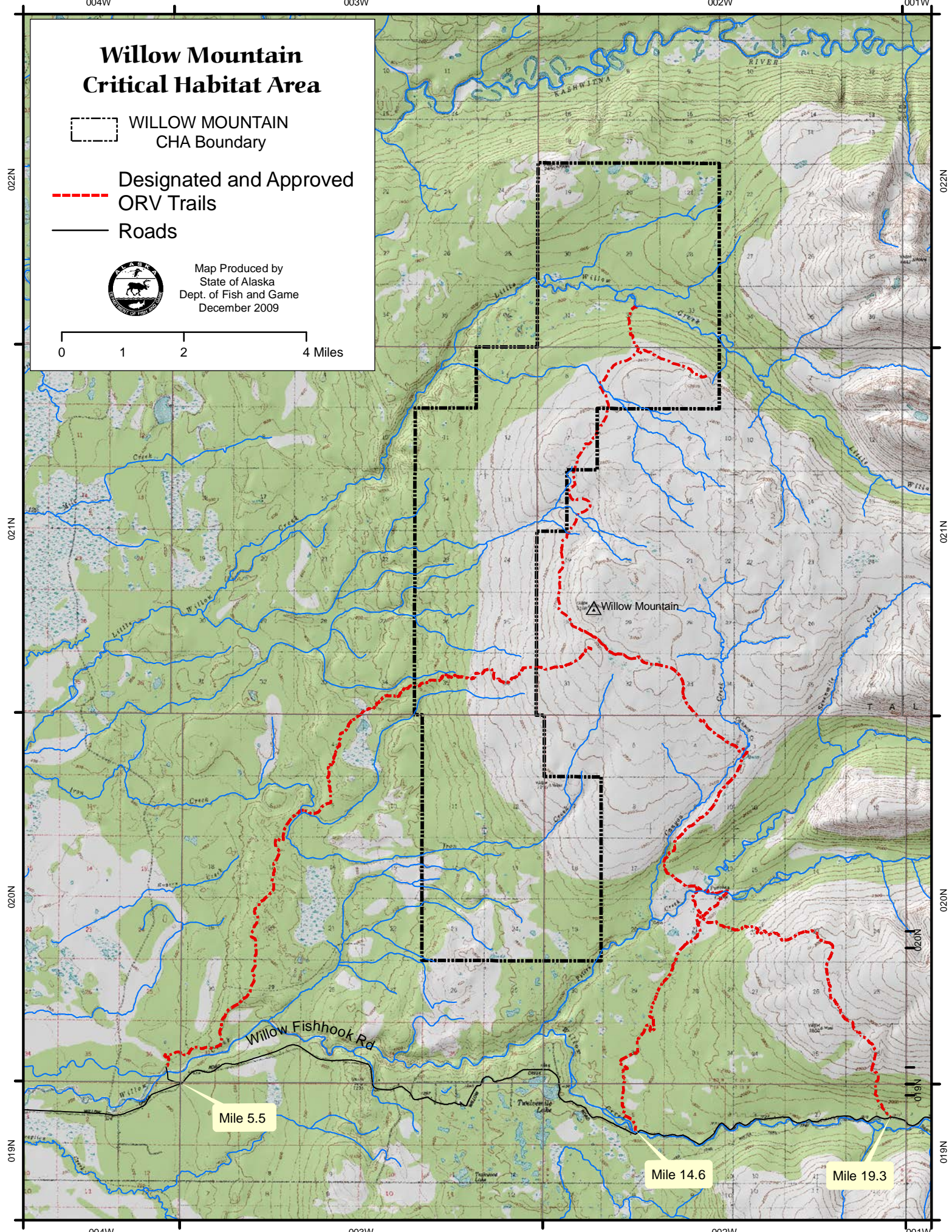
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Willow Mountain

Mile 5.5

Mile 14.6

Mile 19.3

Willow Fishhook Rd

Trailhead