

# MEMORANDUM

# State of Alaska

TO: Rindi Patterson, Natural Resource Officer DATE: February 19, 1986  
Department of Natural Resources  
Division of Land & Water Management FILE NO:  
Southcentral District Office

TELEPHONE NO: 267-2284

*DMC*  
FROM: Donald O. McKay  
Habitat Biologist  
Habitat Division  
Anchorage

SUBJECT: Glacier Creek Gravel  
Extraction

*Glacier Creek 247-60-10250*

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) does not support floodplain gravel extraction in Glacier Creek. As you are well aware, the floodplain and creek above the Alyeska Highway bridge has been excessively mined over the past years. Gravel mining has caused the stream to be perched in the upper tracts of previous material sales. In the lower tracts, mining has caused the stream to spread out in a number of poorly defined channels.

These physical alterations have degraded the fish habitat of this reach of river. Glacier Creek and tributaries support small populations of chinook, coho, sockeye, pink and chum salmon and Dolly Varden. To maintain these fishes, we prefer that no additional floodplain gravel extraction occur in this area so that the stream is allowed to recover naturally. It may be necessary to regrade some of the areas previously mined to level berms and fill depressions. We do not believe that gravel extraction as a measure to mitigate fishery and potential erosion impacts will be beneficial.

Therefore, we recommend that gravel material for use in the Girdwood area be obtained from sources other than Glacier Creek. Once a final decision has been made concerning the future for Glacier Creek, we should finalize the restoration orders to the previous permittees so that any restoration is completed prior to high spring flows.

cc: S. Barber, ADOT/PF  
J. Brogden, COE