

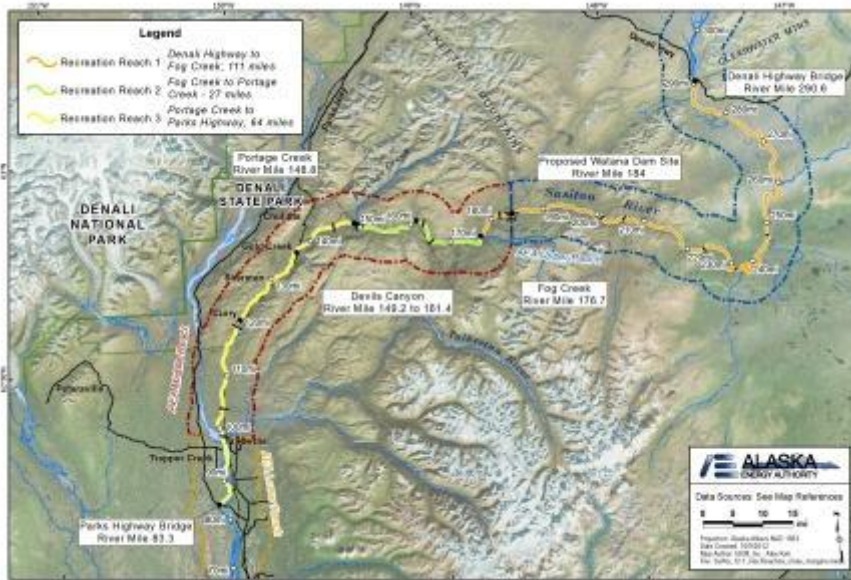
Susitna River Recreation Flow and Access Survey

1. Introduction

Susitna River Recreation Flow and Access Study

Please read this before completing the survey.

River Recreation Reaches 1, 2 and 3 on the Susitna River



This survey is part of a study to determine river recreation use patterns, access and flow preferences for three river reaches on the Susitna River. The Alaska Energy Authority is studying the feasibility of building the Susitna-Watana Hydroelectric Project. The proposed Project would be located on the Susitna River roughly 86 river miles upstream from Talkeetna and approximately 34 miles upstream of the Devils Canyon rapids. As currently envisioned, the project would include a roughly 700-foot tall dam located below Watana Creek and would result in a 20,000 acre, 39-mile long reservoir. Project construction and operation will alter river flows in the Susitna downstream. The dam and reservoir will alter downstream navigation and access.

This survey is designed to collect information on existing motorized and non-motorized river recreation opportunities using a variety of watercraft. Please complete this form if you are using the Susitna for recreation or for transportation purposes. Before completing the survey, please verify online the flows for the day(s) you were boating (use the [Susitna River at Gold Creek gage](#))

The river has been divided into three distinct reaches (see map below). The survey will direct you to questions specific to reaches 1, 2 and 3. If you have completed multiple trips using different watercraft and/or river reaches please complete a survey for each trip and reach.

Your participation in this survey is important to the study's success. Please base responses on your direct experience from your trip rather than guidebooks, group opinions or historic flow preferences. Advances in boat design have expanded the range of flow preferences on many rivers. Accurate responses to this survey will help refine flow preferences for the three reaches on the Susitna River using today's technology.

Lastly, please encourage fellow boaters to participate in this study. If you have friends that recreate on the Susitna, please refer them to this webpage. The more responses we get the more useful our results will be. Alaska Energy Authority will publish the results of this study.

Click "Next" to begin the survey.

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2. Background Information

1. Your First and Last Name (for data sorting purposes only):

2. As part of this study, we are interviewing recreational users to gain additional information about recreation opportunities on the Susitna. Would you like to participate in an interview?

Yes

No

3. If you answered yes to Question 2, please provide contact information for phone interview. (XXX-XXX-XXXX)

4. Select one

Male

Female

5. What is your age?

Age

6. Are you an Alaska resident

Yes

No

7. Are you using the Susitna as a member of a commercial (guided) trip or a non-commercial (private) trip?

Commercial

Non-Commercial

8. Please provide the start and end date for this trip on the Susitna River:

Start Date: MM DD YYYY
 / /
End Date: / /

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9. What was the flow (cfs) when you boated? (use the [Susitna River at Gold Creek gage](#))

Flow (cfs):

10. Is this the first time you have participated in the Susitna River Recreation survey?

- Yes
- No

11. Prior to this trip, how many times have you recreated on the Susitna River?

- 0 times
- 1 time
- 2 to 5 times
- 6 to 10 times
- 11 to 20 times
- More than 20 times

12. What type of craft did you use for this trip?

- Hardshell kayak
- Inflatable kayak
- Closed-deck canoe
- Open canoe
- Cataract
- Raft
- Packraft
- Jetboat
- Airboat
- Prop boat
- Aircraft (floats) on Susitna
- Aircraft (wheeled) on Susitna gravel bar

Other (please specify)

13. How many years have you been using this type of craft?

Years:

14. How would you rate your skill level with this type of craft?

- Novice (comfortable running Class I-II)
- Intermediate (comfortable running Class III)
- Advanced (comfortable running Class IV)
- Expert (comfortable running Class V)

15. In general, how many days a year do you spend using this craft?

- 1
- 2-5
- 6-10
- 11-20
- 21-30
- 31-50
- >50

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3. Trip Purpose and Susitna River Access

16. What reach did you recreate on (select all that apply)?

- Reach 1 (Denali HWY Bridge to Fog Creek--RM 290 to 177)
- Reach 2 (Fog CK to Portage CK including Devils Canyon--RM 177 to 149)
- Reach 3 (Portage CK to George Parks HWY--RM 149 to 86)

17. What was the primary purpose of this trip on the Susitna? (select one)

- Transportation corridor
- Whitewater
- Hunting
- River Recreation
- Fishing
- Camping

Other (please specify)

18. What were the secondary activities of this trip on the Susitna? (select all that apply)

- Transportation corridor
- Fishing
- Solitude
- River Recreation
- Hunting
- Wilderness experience
- Whitewater
- Camping
- Enjoy Alaska landscape/aesthetics

Other (please specify)

19. Did you use a commercial shuttle service to access the river?

	Yes	No
Put-in	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Take-out	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

20. Please specify transportation utilized to reach the put-in for the reach(es) you used.

	Car/truck	ATV	Snowmobile	Train	Motorized boat	Float Plane	Wheeled Plane	Helicopter	Hike
Reach 1 (Denali HWY Bridge to Fog Creek)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reach 2 (Fog CK to Portage CK including Devils Canyon)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reach 3 (Portage CK to George Parks HWY)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other (please specify)

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21. Please specify transportation utilized at the take-out for the reach(es) you used.

	Car/truck	ATV	Snowmobile	Train	Motorized boat	Float Plane	Wheeled Plane	Helicopter	Hike
Reach 1 (Denali HWY Bridge to Fog Creek)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reach 2 (Fog CK to Portage CK including Devils Canyon)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reach 3 (Portage CK to George Parks HWY)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other (please specify)

22. If you were on Reach 1, please specify the put-in and take-out location. For remote access locations use text box to insert approximate river mile (see map) to specify the put-in and take-out or tributary name for floating to mainstem.

	Put-in	Take-out
Reach 1	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Specify approximate River Mile for put-in and take-out or Tributary floated to access mainstem Susitna

23. If you were on Reach 2, please specify the put-in and take-out location. For remote access locations use text box to insert approximate river mile (see map) to specify the put-in and take-out or tributary name for floating to mainstem.

	Put-in	Take-out
Reach 2	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Specify approximate River Mile for put-in and take-out or Tributary floated to access mainstem Susitna

24. If you were on Reach 3, please specify the put-in and take-out location. For remote access locations use text box to insert approximate river mile (see map) to specify the put-in and take-out or tributary name for floating to mainstem.

	Put-in	Take-out
Reach 3	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Specify approximate River Mile for put-in and take-out or Tributary floated to access mainstem Susitna

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4. Evaluating This Trip

**25. In general, how would you rate the river difficulty for the reach you boated at this flow?
(Complete only for the reaches you boated)**

	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V	Class VI	Not sure
Reach 1	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reach 2	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reach 3	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

26. Please estimate the number of hits, stops, boat drags and portages you had on this run.

Number of times I **hit** rocks and other obstacles (but did not stop):

Number of times I was **stopped** after hitting rocks or other obstacles (but did not have to get out of my boat to continue upstream or downstream):

Number of times I had to get out to **drag** or pull my boat off rocks or other obstacles:

Number of times I had to **portage** around unrunnable rapids, log jams, or other obstacles:

I had to **abandon trip** due to boat running aground:

27. Was your trip length (upstream or downstream) reduced because flows were.....?

	NA	Yes	No
Flows too high	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Flows too low	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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28. For the primary reach you boated, please evaluate the flow volume on this trip for your craft, skill level and trip purpose for each of the following characteristics. (check one for each row)

	1. Totally unacceptable	2. Moderately unacceptable	3. Marginal	4. Moderately acceptable	5. Totally acceptable
River transportation corridor	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Multi-day River Trip	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Whitewater River Trip	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
River Camping	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Availability of technical boating	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Availability of powerful hydraulics	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Availability of whitewater play areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
River Safety	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Flow Aesthetics	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Length of run/travel time	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Number of portages	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Overall rating	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

29. For the previous question, please identify the primary reach for which you were evaluating flows. (select all that apply)

- Reach 1 (Denali HWY to Fog Ck)
- Reach 2 (Fog Ck to Portage Ck including Devils Canyon)
- Reach 3 (Portage Ck to George Parks Hwy Bridge)

30. Would you return to boat the flow you just rated in the future?

- Yes
- No

31. In general, would you prefer a flow that was lower, higher or about the same as this flow?

- Lower flow
- About the same
- Higher flow

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32. If you prefer a higher or lower flow, please indicate the volume in cfs that you would like as measured at the Gold Creek gage:

cfs:

33. Are you likely to return for future boating at the preferred flow you identified above?

- Yes
- No

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5. Flow Comparisons and Preferences

34. For comparative purposes, please rate the quality of the following flow volumes for your craft and skill level. In making your evaluations, consider all the flow dependent characteristics that contribute to a high quality trip (transportation corridor, multi-day river recreation, whitewater challenge, travel time, safety, equipment damage and aesthetics). If you do not feel comfortable evaluating a flow you have not seen, leave that row blank.

	1. Totally unacceptable	2. Moderately unacceptable	3. Marginal	4. Moderately acceptable	5. Totally acceptable
<5,000 cfs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
5,000 cfs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
7,500 cfs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
10,000 cfs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
12,500 cfs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
15,000 cfs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
17,500 cfs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
20,000 cfs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
22,500 cfs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
25,000 cfs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
30,000 cfs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
>30,000 cfs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

35. For Reach 1, based on this trip and previous trips on the Susitna, please specify the flow measured at the Gold Creek gage (in cfs) that provides the following types of experiences. Select questions based on your primary trip purpose: Transportation or Recreation. If you do not have experience on this reach leave the responses blank.

From a **transportation** perspective, what is the lowest flow to **safely navigate** the channel?

What is the **optimum flow for transportation**?

What is the **highest safe flow for transportation**?

From a **recreational perspective**, what is the **minimum acceptable flow** for this reach? The minimum acceptable is the lowest flow you would return to boat, not the minimum flow necessary to navigate.

What is the **optimum recreation flow** for this reach?

What is the **highest safe flow for recreation**?

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36. For Reach 2, based on this trip and previous trips on the Susitna, please specify the flow measured at the Gold Creek gage (in cfs) that provides the following types of experiences. If you do not have experience on this reach leave the responses blank.

For whitewater boating in Devils Canyon, what is the **minimum acceptable flow** for this reach? The minimum acceptable is the lowest flow you would return to boat, not the minimum flow necessary to navigate.

For whitewater boating, what is the **optimum flow** for this reach?

Many people are interested in a **standard whitewater trip** at medium flows. For your watercraft and skill level, what is the best flow for a standard whitewater trip?

Some people are interested in bigwater trips for the increased whitewater challenge. For the Devils Canyon section, what is the best flow for a **bigwater challenge trip**?

What is the **highest safe flow** for your watercraft and skill level?

37. For Reach 3, based on this trip and previous trips on the Susitna, please specify the flow measured at the Gold Creek gage (in cfs) that provides the following types of experiences. Select questions based on your primary trip purpose: Transportation or Recreation. If you do not have experience on this reach leave the responses blank.

From a **transportation** perspective, what is the lowest flow to **safely navigate** the channel?

What is the **optimum flow for transportation**?

What is the **highest safe flow for transportation**?

From a **recreational perspective**, what is the **minimum acceptable flow** for this reach? The minimum acceptable is the lowest flow you would return to boat, not the minimum flow necessary to navigate.

What is the **optimum recreation flow** for this reach?

What is the **highest safe flow for recreation**?

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6. Comparisons with other rivers

38. Reach 1 river recreation opportunities on the Susitna River are?

	NA	below average	average	above average	among the best
Compared to other rivers in a 200 mile radius	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Compared to other rivers in Alaska	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Compared to other rivers in the Pacific Northwest	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Compared to other rivers in the USA	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

39. Reach 2 river recreation opportunities on the Susitna River are?

	NA	below average	average	above average	among the best
Compared to other rivers in a 200 mile radius	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Compared to other rivers in Alaska	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Compared to other rivers in the Pacific Northwest	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Compared to other rivers in the USA	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

40. Reach 3 river recreation opportunities on the Susitna River are?

	NA	below average	average	above average	among the best
Compared to other rivers in a 200 mile radius	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Compared to other rivers in Alaska	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Compared to other rivers in the Pacific Northwest	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Compared to other rivers in the USA	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

41. Are you likely to use the Susitna River more often if river recreation reaches are more accessible in the future? (please respond to each reach)

	Yes	No	Undecided
Reach 1	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reach 2	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reach 3	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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42. What is your opinion on Susitna River access (please respond for each reach)

	No opinion	In favor of improvements to access river	Current access is sufficient	Additional access will deter remote wilderness character
Reach 1	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reach 2	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reach 3	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

43. Do you have other comments you would like to make about river recreation on the Susitna River?

Thank you for your participation! Please forward this survey link to individuals recreating on the Susitna River.