


ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Water Resources Section

TO: Jessie Bruns
FROM: Jessi Balzarini

DATE: A2026-42
FILE NUMBER: TWUA A2026-42

The subject Temporary Water Use Authorization (TWUA) case file has been reviewed for accuracy and conformance with statutes and regulations. The following comments, recommendations or corrections are presented.

Brief Project Description: The proposed project involves replacing an existing double pipe structure with a larger, stream simulation aluminum pipe arch culvert at a location along the Copper River Highway. MP 13.7. The purpose of this project is to improve fish and aquatic organism passage in a tributary to the Sheridan Glacier River, restoring 0.75 miles of upstream rearing and spawning habitat for coho salmon.

It also involves replacing and relocating a failed double pipe structure with a larger aluminized corrugated steel pipe along a tributary to the Sheridan Glacier River. The existing crossing is along the Sheridan Glacier Road, an USFS road with minimal maintenance. This project will relocate the crossing under the Copper River Highway at MP 13.65. The relocation will increase floodplain connectivity, roadway integrity, and improve fish and aquatic organism passage, restoring 0.5 miles of upstream rearing and spawning habitat for coho salmon.

Location & Amount of Water: Sheridan Glacier River Tributary 1 in Section 17, Township 16 South, Range 1 West, of the Copper River Meridian.

- Dewatering of up to 720,000 gallons per day, with a maximum combined seasonal withdrawal of 10.8 million gallons.
- Temporary full stream diversion

Sheridan Glacier River Tributary 2 in Section 17, Township 16 South, Range 1 West, of the Copper River Meridian.

- Dewatering of up to 720,000 gallons per day, with a maximum combined seasonal withdrawal of 10.8 million gallons.
- Temporary full stream diversion

Check for duplicate water use: None.

Agency Review: Dated April 2, 2026, with comments due by 5PM April 16, 2026.

ADF&G-Habitat: No comments were received.

ADF&G – Sportfish: No comments were received.

DEC – Drinking Water: No comments were received.

DEC – Water Permitting: No comments were received.

DEC – Contaminated Sites: I'm responding regarding the informational contaminated site Copper River Highway Mile 13-14 Areas of Concern (File#: 2215.38.034 / Hazard ID: 26249) that is assigned to the IC Unit. It's unlikely that the site will impact the proposed project. If contamination is encountered, please halt operations and contact Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation Contaminated Sites Program. I have no additional comments regarding this project.

Response: A condition will be included in any issued authorization from this application requiring immediate a halt to work and notification of DEC and DNR if contamination is encountered, either preexisting or authorization holder caused.

DNR – SCRO: No comments were received.

DNR – SAIL: No comments were received.

DOR – ROW: The Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities has no comment at this time.

USACE: No comments were received.

Eyak Corporation: No comments were received.

City of Cordova: No comments were received.

Copper River Vally SWCD: No comments were received.

Appropriators of Record,
Temporary Authorizations
& Water Availability:

A DNR Land Administration System search of the case category for Water (excluding the case status “Closed”) occurred within a 1 mile radius of the worksite in the legal description below:

Section(s)	Township	Range	Meridian
7, 8, 9, 16, 17, 18, 20, 21	16 South	1 West	Copper River

The search located 1 appropriator of record and 1 temporary water use authorizations (see below).

File Type	File #	Case Type	Case Subtype	Case Status	Customer	MTR	Sec	Source
TWUA	A2021-60	Temporary	Surface	Issued	ADOT&PF VALDEZ	C016S001W	8	Unnamed Stream
LAS	22407	Reservation	Surface	Issued	DFG ADMIN SERVICES DIV	C016S001W	7	Copper River

TWUA A2021-60 and LAS 22407 are both for separate sources at least 1/5 mile from those requested in TWUA A2026-42 and will not be affected by the

While not anticipated, a condition will be in the authorization requiring notification of DNR if interference is noted by a prior appropriator or adjacent property owner. Pumping will cease and not resume until approved by DNR following analysis of the situation.

Sheridan Glacier River Tributary 1 (COP3)

The estimated daily discharge of the requested water source was determined using a simple estimation approach where the river channel is x feet in width, y feet in depth, with a stream flow of .25 to 1.0 (depending on the channel). The width and depth were measured for the hydro report submitted with the and pictures and flood flow rates from the reports were used to estimate the stream flow.

COP3 has a measured width of 20.80 ft, a measured depth of 1.50 ft and an estimated stream flow of 1.0, resulting in 20,165,184 gallons of daily discharge. All water is unappropriated.

To conform with current water resources practices, any authorization resulting from this application would limit the withdrawal from any one source to 20% of available water. If the maximum daily total was removed from this source (720,000 gallons), it would equal 3.57% of the source, below the 20% limit.

No water is being removed from the hydrologic unit for the diversion.

Sheridan Glacier River Tributary 2 (SHER3)

The estimated daily discharge of the requested water source was determined using a simple estimation approach where the river channel is x feet in width, y feet in depth, with a stream flow of .25 to 1.0 (depending on the channel). The width and depth were measured for the hydro report submitted with the and pictures and flood flow rates from the reports were used to estimate the stream flow.

SHER3 has a measured width of 9.50 ft, a measured depth of 0.50 ft and an estimated stream flow of 1.0, resulting in 4,605,030 gallons of daily discharge. All water is unappropriated.

To conform with current water resources practices, any authorization resulting from this application would limit the withdrawal from any one source to 20% of available water. If the maximum daily total was removed from this source (720,000 gallons), it would equal 15.64% of the source, below the 20% limit.

No water is being removed from the hydrologic unit for the diversion.

Proposed Means of Diversion: Adequate. Per the application materials: The streams will be diverted by use of supersack and/or sheet pile cofferdam. A temporary diversion channel will be used to divert stream flows utilizing a diversion culvert. An up to 2 inch dewatering pump with a rate of up to 500 gpm will be used to prevent silty water from returning to the stream from the active construction area.

Proposed Use of Water: Per AS 46.15.260(3), this use is beneficial as it is associated with transportation and fish passage upgrades and repairs.

Effect upon access to navigable or public water: DNR does not anticipate the issuance of this TWUA will restrict access to navigable or public water ways.

Effect on Fish & Game: DNR does not anticipate any impacts to fish and game. ADF&G received the agency notice and has issued FH26-II-0043 and FH26-II-0044 for this project.

Effect on Public Recreation: DNR does not anticipate an adverse effect on public recreation.

Effect on Public Health: There is 1 contamination site within 1/4 mile of the project location. A condition will be included in the agency review for the authorization holder to contact ADEC Contaminated Sites and ADEC Water Permitting regarding any required water quality testing before discharging the water or placing the well into operations should contamination be encountered.

Object ID: 8012

Hazard ID:26,249

Site Name: Copper River Highway Mile 13-14 Areas of Concern

File Number: 2215.38.034

Status: Informational

Any authorization that results from this application will have a condition requiring the authorization holder to immediately contact DEC and DNR if contamination is known or encountered.

Determination: The authorization for TWUA A2026-42 will be issued with Conditions and Advisories, including, but not limited to:

1. A Condition stating, "Pursuant to 11 AAC 93.220 (f), this authorization may be suspended by the Department of Natural Resources to protect the water rights of other persons or the public interest."
2. Conditions requiring immediate notification of DEC and DNR if contamination is known or encountered, either preexisting or authorization holder caused.
3. A Condition noting that if any adjacent well owner or appropriator of record notes interference during any pumping associated with this authorization, work is to immediately cease and DNR-Water contacted. Pumping is not to resume until authorized by DNR-Water.

It is determined by DNR that given the documentation above, this proposed authorization is unlikely to adversely affect the water source or unduly affect the right of an appropriator of record, as defined in 11 AAC 93.970(38). It is interpreted that the proposed use of water is in the public interest. This file contains no evidence of the likelihood of harm to the public interest. Furthermore, it is inferred that the applicant has the intent and ability to complete the projects.

Authorized water use does not mean actual water use. Water use varies from year to year depending on the project. A temporary water use authorization is not a water right and does not establish priority. All authorizations are temporary and are subject to appropriation by others (AS 46.15.155(c)). The Department may issue conditions, limitations, suspend or terminate an authorization if necessary to protect the public interest, the right of a prior appropriator, human health or to protect fish and wildlife habitat (AS 46.15.155(f)(i); 11 AAC 93.210(b); 11 AAC 93.220(f)).

This determination is effective upon the date of the concurring signature.



Jessica Balzarini, NRS 3

5/6/2026

Date

 I Concur

_____ I Do Not Concur



Jessie Bruns, Manager

5/6/2026

Date

An eligible person affected by this decision may appeal to the DNR Commissioner per AS 44.37.011 and 11 AAC 02. Any appeal must be received within twenty (20) calendar days after issuance of this decision under 11 AAC 02.040. An eligible person must first appeal a decision to the Commissioner before seeking relief in superior court. The Alaska Court System establishes its own rules for timely appealing final administrative orders and decisions of the department. Appeals may be mailed or hand-delivered to the DNR Commissioner's Office, 550 W. 7th Avenue, Suite 1400, Anchorage, Alaska, 99501; or faxed to (907)-269-8918; or sent by electronic mail to dnr.appeals@alaska.gov. A copy of 11 AAC 02 is available on the department's website at <https://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/pdf/DNR-11-AAC-02.pdf>.