

# STATE OF ALASKA

SARAH PALIN, GOVERNOR

## DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

**DIVISION OF MINING, LAND & WATER**  
*Public Access Assertion & Defense Unit*

550 W. 7<sup>th</sup> Ave., Suite 1330  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3514

PHONE (907) 269-8600  
FAX (907) 269-5043

### Chuitna River Field Trip Report by Scott Ogan 9/8/08

#### Objectives of Chuitna River Field Trip conducted June 16-17, 2008:

1. Using a commercial guide, float the Chuitna River from above Lone Creek to the 17(b) site easement with an inflatable boat of sufficient size to be capable of commercial use under BLM standards,<sup>1</sup> to supplement navigability information previously submitted to BLM
2. Obtain additional hydrological information for that stretch of the Chuitna River

#### Personnel on trip:

Scott Ogan, Natural Resource Manager II

Terry Schwarz, Hydrologist I

Garret Jones, contracted raft guide with Arctic Wild from Fairbanks, Alaska

#### Equipment:

12-foot Avon raft typically used in commercial rafting operations, with a load capacity of over 1000 lbs. loaded with people and gear including: camping equipment for three individuals such as tents, sleeping bags, cooking equipment and food; hydrological measuring equipment, cameras etc.; personal gear and safety gear.

#### Trip information:

On the morning of June 16, 2008, the gear and most personnel were flown by fixed-wing aircraft to the Beluga Airstrip and transferred to the helicopter. Ogan flew to the strip with Dave King, the helicopter pilot. The pilot then flew the entire crew and gear to the put-in site on an exposed gravel bar of the river located approximately 0.7 miles upstream from where Tyonek-owned uplands border state uplands. The boat trip started at about 1:45 PM on state lands. The start location coordinates are N 61°07'38.7" W 151°23'01.9" (see attachment A photo and map).

<sup>1</sup> Feb. 25, 1980 J. Allen Memorandum, as revised by *Alaska v. Ahtna, Inc. & United States*, 891 F.2<sup>nd</sup> 1401 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1989), *cert. denied*, 495 U.S. 919 (1990).

The water level at the start location was almost bank-to-bank with a high level of turbidity. Water conditions indicated that the river was in the upper receding limb of the spring snow-melt. Before starting the trip, Schwarz attempted to wade the river to conduct stream profile and discharge measurements, but the river was too deep and swift to conduct measurements by wading. At this point, the slope of the river was measured to be 1% and Rosgen channel type C23. The river was estimated to be 100 feet wide and up to 3.5 feet deep at this location.

The crew commenced floating down the river with three people and supplies aboard a single raft. The river consisted of Class III rapids until slightly above Lone Creek. At that point, the river widened, changing the water to Class II. While boating the Class III waters, the crew encountered frequent boulders that required diligent attention to maneuver around, but still navigated the river with little difficulty.

The crew stopped at Lone Creek (N 61°07'00.1" W 151°17'26.2") to observe the water levels. Ogan and Schwarz waded up Lone Creek from its main confluence with the Chuitna River until they reached clear water. Another attempt to measure the Chuitna River by wading failed due to the river being too deep and swift. The river was estimated to be 120 feet wide and up to 3 feet deep at this location with a slope of 1% and Rosgen channel type C2.

The crew proceeded down the river to the "Cable Crossing" 17(b) site easement. Camp was made at the site (N 61°06'24.3" W 151°15'13.9"). (See attachment B photograph.) Schwarz and Ogan surveyed the stage of the river at the existing stream gauge benchmarks. Water levels fluctuated 0.67 inches during the survey.

#### Stage Level Survey

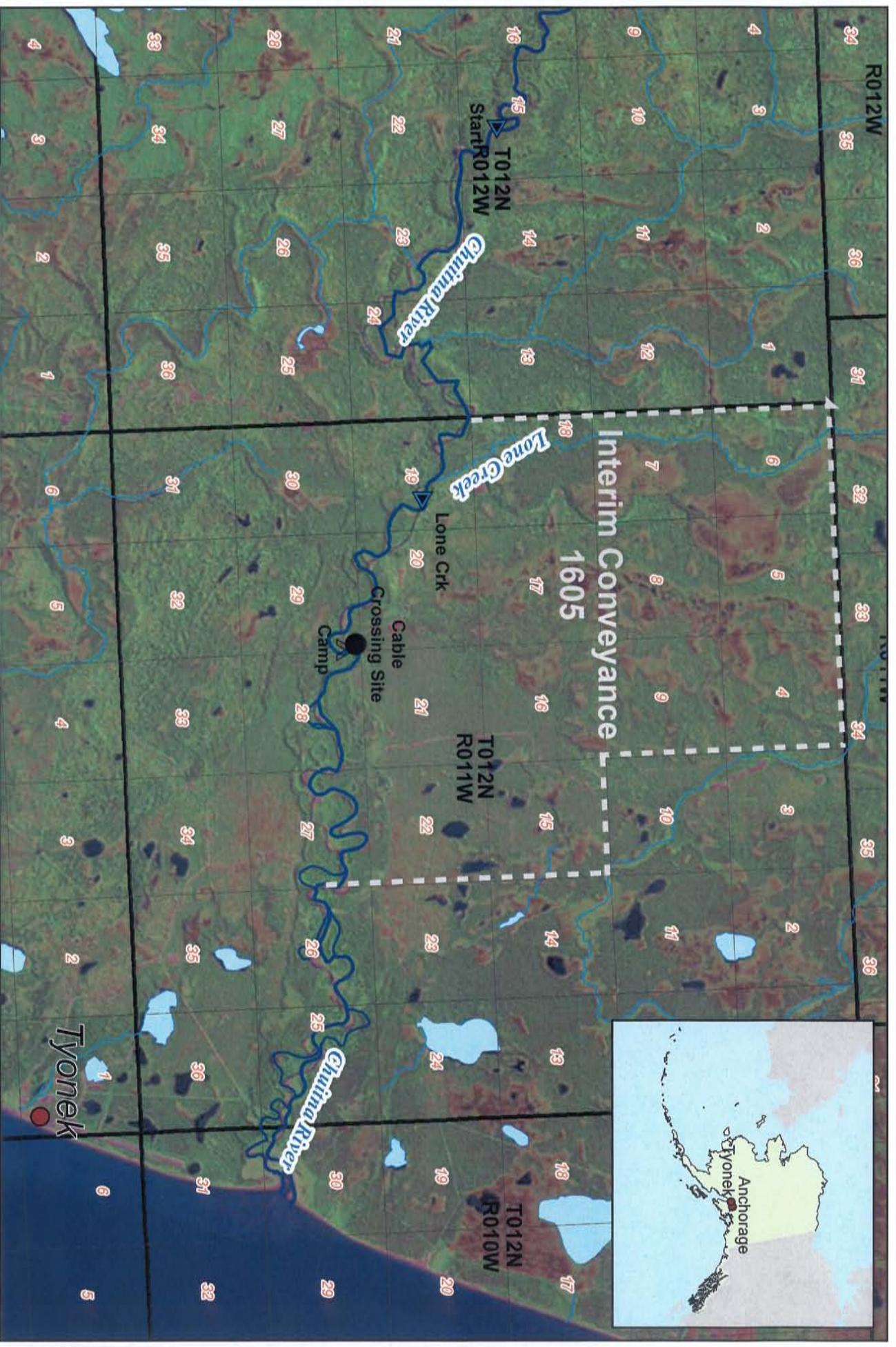
Date	Time	WS	GBM
6/16/2008	8:15 PM	11.19	4.64
6/16/2008	11:15 PM	10.88	4.63
6/17/2008	12:15 PM	11.5	4.63
6/17/2008	3:00 PM	11.55	4.64

The crew camped for the night at the 17(b) site and was picked up from there the next day by Dave King of Last Frontier Helicopters.

#### **Finding:**

This reach of the Chuitna River was navigated from the put-in point to the Cable Crossing with little to no difficulty using a typical inflatable raft under contract with a commercial guide service.





Produced by:  
 Alaska Department of Natural Resources  
 Division Mining, Lands and Water  
 Public Access Section & Desktop Unit  
 Alaska Department of Fish and Game

**Chuitna River**

This map is based on the most recent data available, however the actual and/or historical location of the waters involved may differ from that shown on this map due to the changes in the waters over time. The State of Alaska makes no expressed or implied warranties (including warranties of merchantability and fitness) with respect to the character, function, or capabilities of this product or its appropriateness for any user's purposes. In no event will the State of Alaska be liable for any incidental, indirect, special, consequential or other damages suffered by the user or any other person or entity whether from the use of this product, any failure thereof or otherwise, and in no event will the State of Alaska's liability to you or anyone else exceed the fee paid for the product.



1:70,000

WATERBODY DATA: Alaska Geospatial Data Clearinghouse Alaska Hydrography 1:63,360.  
 Chuitna River Digitized using Kenali Peninsular Bureau Parcel data.  
 1:24,000 scale, and 1:63,360 USGS topographic map.  
 LAND OWNERSHIP DATA: Kenali Peninsular Bureau  
 MAP PROJECTION: Albers Equal Area North American Datum 1983 Seward Meridian  
 Date Printed: April 3, 2008

~State of Alaska~

**Chuitna River**

