



Important Information About the Alaska River Logs

These narratives about trips on Alaska rivers are valuable even decades after they were written. However, we recommend that you to keep the following in mind as you read.

First, a word of warning: use these river logs as one source of information that you will supplement with more. Alaska rivers can be very dangerous because of their remoteness, the climate, their sources, and other factors. Bring adequate and proper clothing, equipment, and food. File a "float plan" with someone who can call for help if you do not return on time. Take a satellite phone or other communications tool if at all possible (but not usually a cell phone because of their limited coverage in Alaska). You should plan carefully for a safe and pleasant trip.

Second, note also that land status information contained in these documents may no longer be accurate. These logs were compiled long before massive land transfers of unreserved public land to restrictive public ownership or private ownership. River users should be careful to follow federal or state regulations where appropriate, and to avoid trespassing on private land. [Here is some additional information Alaska native landowners.](#) You can obtain

information about access on public lands from the [Alaska Public Lands Information Center](#).

Third, be sure to also check current fishing or hunting regulations, as what was legal decades ago may not be legal today. You can obtain information about state fishing and hunting regulations from the [Alaska Department of Fish and Game website](#). More restrictive federal regulations may apply on certain federal lands.

Finally, there may be errors. We are working to make as much of this material as possible searchable by adding a text layer to the original image-only PDF files using a text capture process. This process is ongoing. Where possible, we have also converted these to HTML files. Please note that while we have corrected obvious errors generated during these processes, errors may still remain. There may also be errors in the original material.

[Return to Alaska outdoors areas](#) for more information about boating, fishing and hunting areas.

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

D4225 Alaska
(W&SRS)

To: Files

DATE: September 27, 1973

From: : David Dapkus

SUBJECT: Alatna River Float Trip - June 1973

We floated the Alatna River In the central Brooks Range just west of Bettles, Alaska, June 20-30, 1973. Participants were:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Representing</u>
David Dapkus	EOR, Team Leader
Tom Ritter	NPS, Anchorage State Office
Spencer Linderman	ADF&G, Fairbanks
Sharon Long	Resource Planning Team, FSLUPC, Anch

The team met in Bettles, Alaska on June 20. An overflight with Paul Graham (Merric) was taken of the entire river by the team that afternoon. On June 21, we were ferried into the Alatna at Ram Creek by helicopter (3 trips from Bettles).

The first camp was made at Ram Creek. The second day, June 22, dawned bright and clear and remained that way for the entire float trip. The canoes were loaded and off we went. The mountains were beautiful, especially the Arrigetch Peaks. Much wildlife such as grizzly bear, Dall sheep, moose, caribou, wolf, beaver, ducks, Canada geese, Great Horned owls, eagles, and seagulls were observed starting that day and throughout the float trip. Fishing was excellent in the tributaries and lake only. Camp was made about 2 miles above Arrigetch Creek.

Successive camps were made at Takahula Lake about 15 miles below Takahula Lake, at Helpmejack Creek, Siruk Creek, and several other unnamed creeks.

Water level was slightly high, and tea colored due to breakup. Except for the first 40 miles which is fast and rapid lined, the river runs smooth, broad and slow. It is easily canoeable with caution due to the shallow and fast



first 40 miles of river.

We arrived at the villages of Allakaket and Alatna in time to catch our scheduled Wien Skyvan to **Bettles** and Fairbanks on June 30. These villages are 1/4 of a mile down the Koyukuk River from the confluence of the Alatna River.