



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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*Memorandum*D4225 Alaska
(WG SRS)

: Files

DATE: September 25, 1973

FROM : David Dapkus

SUBJECT: Alagnak River Float Trip - July, 1973.

We floated the Alagnak River, via 2-man rubber rafts, on the Alaska Peninsula, just north of King Salmon, Alaska, July 23-28, 1973. Participants were:

David Dapkus - BOR - Team Leader
 Gene Ludlow - BLM - Anchorage District
 Gil Blinn - NPS - Supt., Katmai, N.M.
 Rich Randall - ADF&G - King Salmon
 Dave Bohn - NPS Consultant
 Don Nielsen - Bristol Bay Native Ass.; was not along
 due to another engagement, but was scheduled to go.
 Abigail Dapkus

We flew from Anchorage and King Salmon via BLM goose to Kukaklek Lake, the source of the Alagnak, on July 23. First camp was near the river's outlet at the Lake.

The first day was clear and sunny, many red salmon were caught and released. The lake and first few miles of river are in tundra country before becoming tree lined. The second day we started down the river which was fast and mostly deep. About 15 miles downstream we came upon a series of rapids shown on the USGS maps. They must be lined. The river is in a narrow gorge at this point. The first 100 yards of rapids could be run, but the river is so fast that a person would not have time to get ashore before the falls. We camped just below the falls that night. We encountered some runnable rapids below the camp the next day.

The remainder of the river is fast, but easily runnable. We camped in two spots in the middle and lower braided reaches of the river. We were picked up by BLM goose about 10 miles upstream from the river's mouth on July 28 at a native fish camp.

The Alagnak afforded excellent fishing for red and king



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salmon, lake trout, Dolties, and grayling. Wildlife seen includes grizzly bear, moose, hawks, eagles, geese, ducks, ptarmigan, and swans.