

**Long-Term Boat & Property Storage on Red Shirt Lake
Nancy Lake State Recreation Area**

**Director's Determination
March 2014**

Proposed Action

The Division of Parks & Outdoor Recreation proposes to authorize, via special park use permits issued under 11AAC 18.010, the storage of boats and related property longer than 72 hours within an identified area at Red Shirt Lake within Nancy Lake State Recreation Area.

Authority

11 AAC 12.220(b) (Unattended camps and equipment)
11AAC 18.010 (Special park use permits)
11 AAC 18.025 (Procedure)

Management Plan

Nancy Lake State Recreation Area Master Plan (October, 1983)

Location

Uplands located on northwestern shore of Red Shirt Lake

Legal description

NW ¼ NW ¼ Section 22 T18N R5W Seward Meridian

Borough

Matanuska-Susitna Borough

Land use classification

Natural zone (Nancy Lake State Recreation Area Master Plan, October, 1983)

Background:

Park regulation 11 AAC 12.220(b) prohibits a person from leaving camping equipment or a vehicle in an undeveloped area of a state park for more than 72 hours unless they are engaged in recreational activities on a daily basis and have made prior arrangements with a state park officer. 11 AAC 18.010(a)(4) stipulates that no person may place structures or property in a state park without a permit.

There are over 50 private parcels adjacent to Red Shirt Lake. Many parcels have seasonal residences which have been accessed by boating across the lake from the terminus of the two-mile long Redshirt Lake Trail. There is no other summer access to

the parcels other than floatplane. Residents have stored their private boats along the shore of the lake near the trailhead, and use them for access during the summer months. Approximately 30 boats have been kept there for many years. All boats are small enough to be pulled on shore and tipped over, typically canoes and small skiffs with small outboard motors. There is also a commercial operator who has stored between four and six rental canoes at the end of the Red Shirt Lake trail; these boats are rented by park visitors who hike to the lake.

Procedure

Pursuant to 11 AAC 18.025(c), the Director may, upon proper application, issue a permit for activities described in 11 AAC 18.010(a)(4) if he or she determines that:

(1) Park facilities and natural and cultural resources will not be adversely affected;

Discussion: The area where the division has and proposes to continue authorizing boat storage on Red Shirt Lake encompasses about 100 feet of shoreline where the Red Shirt Lake trail terminates at the shoreline of Red Shirt Lake. There are no park facilities or known cultural or historical features at the site.

(2) The state park is protected from pollution;

Discussion: Allowing storage of boats and personal property could result in pollution to the park if fuel is not adequately contained and personal property not secured to avoid disturbance by wildlife or from weather.

(3) Public use values of the state park will be maintained and protected; and

Discussion: In addition to use of the site for boat launching and storage of boats and personal property there is moderate summertime use of the site by the public who visit Red Shirt Lake for day trips or more extended outings, including boating on the lake.

(4) The public safety, health, and welfare will not be adversely affected.

Discussion: The boat launch and storage site is not an area of the park that receives heavy use by the public and there are no known safety hazards at the site.

Determination


It is determined that boat and related property storage is consistent with the criteria in 11 AAC 18.025 with conditions related to the following stipulated within any permits issued:

- Restrictions on amount of fuel stored on site and type of container used;

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- Requirements for property to be adequately secured to avoid disturbance by wildlife or weather;
- Boat and property storage will be located within the area identified by DPOR so as to protect shoreline vegetation and in a manner that does not prevent or restrict access by the public to state park lands and waters;
- All boats and property will be clearly labelled with owner's name and contact information.

The division will monitor the use of the site and may implement other requirements as necessary to comply with the criteria in 11 AAC 18.025.


 Ben Ellis, Director

March 6 2014
 Date

Appeals

All appeals must be in accordance with 11 AAC 02. To be eligible to appeal a person must be affected by this decision. Any appeal must be received within 20 calendar days after the date of "issuance" of this decision, as defined in 11 AAC 02(c) and (d). If no appeal is filed within the 20 days of "issuance" this decision goes into effect as a final order and decision 31 days after "issuance". An eligible person must first appeal this decision in accordance with 11 AAC 02 before appealing this decision to Superior Court. A copy of 11 AAC 02 may be obtained from any regional information office of the Department of Natural Resources.

Appeals should be directed to:

Joe Balash, Commissioner
 Department of Natural Resources
 550 W. 7th Avenue, Suite 1400
 Anchorage, AK 99501
 Fax: (907) 269-8918
 Email: dnr.appeals@alaska.gov

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