

LOW WATER BOAT RAMPATION  
SUSITNA RIVER AT MILL 100

Susitna Hydroelectric Project  
Supplemental Report

ERC Docket No. 4-17-94

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R&amp;M

TO File	SUBJECT Low Water Boat Navigation. Susitna River at Mile 128	
FROM R.F. Butera	DATE 11-15-82	PROJECT NO. 253303

Between Miles 128.5 and 127.0 the Susitna River shifts its channel from the west to the east side of its floodplain. The area over which this transition occurs is very wide and braided. In the opinion of many people who spent a lot of time on the river, often boating this section of the river daily, it is the trickiest navigation problem between Talkeetna and Devil Canyon.

In late August 1982, at a Susitna River at Gold Creek discharge of approximately 13,000 cfs, this area was depth sounded by a field crew from R&M Consultants. There are three possible routes, as shown on the attached map sheet, that can be successfully navigated at this stage.

Route #1. Channel is narrow, winding and often choked with trees. Possible to navigate but not recommended.

Route #2. Although not obvious, a narrow, deep channel exists here that runs close to the banks of the existing islands. Minimum depth through this channel at the stage when measured was 3.5 feet. This is the recommend low water route.

Route #3 The most obvious route along the outside of the bend. It is wide and braided and at low water shallow enough to cause hazardous boating. Possible to navigate but not the recommended route if the discharge at Gold Creek is less than 15,000 cfs.

On October 14, 1982 at a Susitna River at Gold creek discharge of 6,000 cfs. the river was jet boated from Talkeetna to Gold Creek. At this low stage there was no problem boating at Mile 128 through Route #2. Routes Numbers 1 and 3 were not navigable at this stage.

Other than this section the only navigation problem encountered at this low stage between Talkeetna and Gold Creek was the area just downstream of the confluence of the Susitna and Chulitna rivers. This area was quite shallow yet still navigable jet boat.

In sum up. The area between Miles 127 and 128.5 on the Susitna River is not a problem to navigate even at very low discharges if the boat operator is familiar with the area. But for the uninformed often the most obvious route is not the best.

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