

Equipment

Raft or canoe (depends on take-out point)
Personal flotation device for each person
Extra paddles
Maps and compass or GPS unit
Water filter/treatment system
Cook stove and fuel
Dry matches and fire starter
First-aid kit
Sunscreen
Sunglasses
Bug repellent (lots)
Tent
Sleeping bag (synthetic fill)
Sleeping pad
Dry storage bag
Rain gear
Warm jacket, hat and gloves
Extra dry clothes
Extra food

For more information on the
White Mountains National Recreation Area,
visit our web site at:
<http://aurora.ak.blm.gov/whitemtns>

Or contact:
Bureau of Land Management
Northern Field Office
1150 University Avenue
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709-3844
907-474-2200 or 1-800-437-7021

BLM/AK/GI-001026+8354+020

Be Prepared!

Beaver Creek is remote and emergencies can be life-threatening. You must be prepared for a wide variety of conditions and have the proper equipment.

File a trip plan with a friend

Leave your trip plan with someone, noting:

1. Date, location and method of travel to departure point.
2. Where you plan to camp.
3. What type of equipment you are taking.
4. How and when you expect to return to town.

Unpredictable conditions

The weather can change without warning. Sunny days can change to rain or even snow. Go prepared for any type of situation.

River conditions can change rapidly. Rain in upper headwaters can cause the river to rise downstream. Tie off your boats at night so they don't float away with rising water levels.

Prepare for the unexpected

River temperatures are very cold. Be able to recognize the symptoms of hypothermia and know how to treat it. Carry dry clothes in water-tight containers.

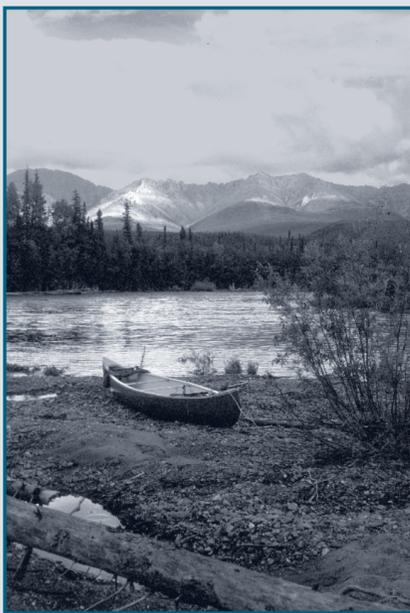
Watch out for wildlife

Both grizzly and black bears live in the area. Keep a clean camp and store food away from your tent to avoid unwanted guests.

Treat the water

Drinking water should be boiled, filtered or treated chemically for *Giardia*. Dig any latrines or "cat holes" at least 100 feet above the mean high water mark.

Beaver Creek National Wild River

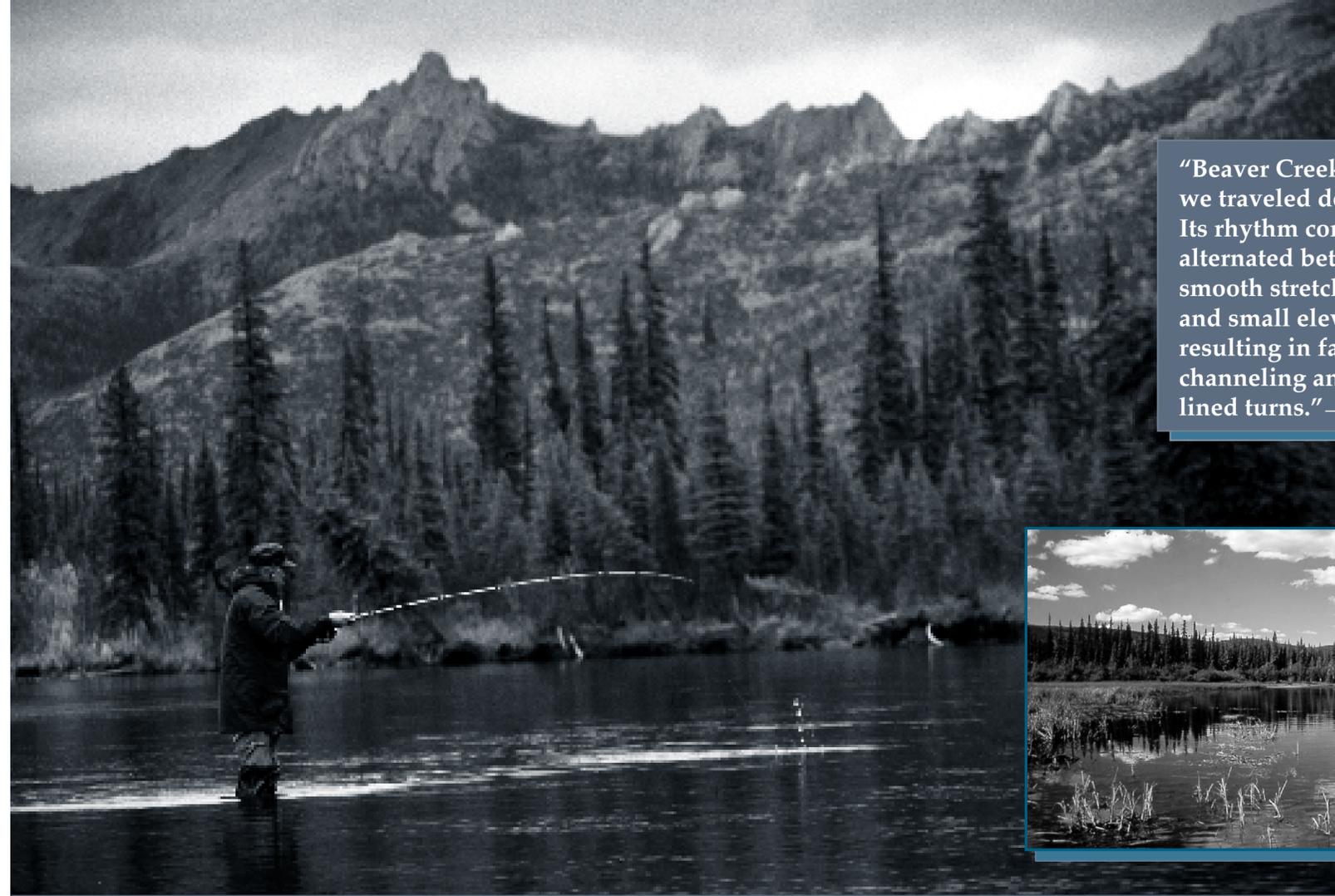


Beaver Creek is your pathway to adventure. Flowing through the heart of the White Mountains National Recreation Area, Beaver Creek passes through boreal forests, past jagged limestone cliffs with falcons circling high above and across the Yukon Flats to the Yukon River.

Beaver Creek is a class I (smooth water) river float with a few short sections of class II water. There are many gravel bars along the way for camping and fishing, and a variety of wildlife, such as moose, caribou, wolf, bears, eagles, falcons and migratory waterfowl.

The first 127 miles of Beaver Creek are designated a national wild river. Most of this segment lies within the White Mountains National Recreation Area. The last 16 miles are in the Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge.

After meandering slowly for another 154 miles through the "Flats," Beaver Creek joins the Yukon River. You must travel another 84 miles to the Dalton Highway Bridge before you can take out near a road. This road-to-road trip is over 360 river miles.



"Beaver Creek widened as we traveled downstream. Its rhythm constantly alternated between smooth stretches of water and small elevation drops resulting in faster water, channeling and sweeper-lined turns." —river user



Said by many to be the "...longest road-to-road float trip in North America."

Planning Your Trip

Beaver Creek flows through a remote area of Interior Alaska. Once you put in at Nome Creek there are no roads or services until you reach the Dalton Highway Bridge over the Yukon River. Limited commercial services are available near the bridge.

It usually takes six days to reach the mouth of Victoria Creek at river mile 111. Many floaters arrange for a Fairbanks air-taxi service to pick them up from a gravel bar a few miles past Victoria Creek. If you continue down Beaver Creek and the Yukon River to the Dalton Highway Bridge, you should plan for up to two additional weeks of travel.

Motors on boats launched in Nome Creek are limited to 15 horsepower or less. Your take-out point will determine what type of craft you should use. A raft can be loaded into an airplane if you are to be picked up from a gravel bar. A canoe is better if you are floating all the way to the Yukon River.



Grizzly Bear



White Mountains Limestone Cliffs

Discuss with your air taxi service which gravel bars are suitable for aircraft landing and take-off. Inclement weather, changing water levels and delayed pick-ups may alter your float times. Bring extra supplies in case you spend unexpected time on the river.

There are many gravel bars in the upper section of Beaver Creek. You may have to line your boat for short distances through shallow sections of the river.

Camping is best on the many gravel bars along Beaver Creek. Use dead and down wood for campfires. Pack out any nonburnable trash.

BLM supports "Leave No Trace" camping techniques. Remove any trace of your camp, such as fire rings, and scatter any firewood piles.

Natural History

The White Mountains are made up of massive white limestone formations up to several thousand feet thick. Wind, rain and freezing temperatures have weathered away the surrounding soil to expose the jagged cliffs and peaks seen along Beaver Creek. These high ridges are home to Dall sheep and peregrine falcons.

In contrast, the valley bottoms usually consist of permafrost (permanently frozen soil) about a foot beneath the surface. This results in forests of short, stunted black spruce, deep sedge tussocks and thick stands of willows. Moose, caribou, and both grizzly and black bears live throughout the area.

Along the creeks, the gravel soils support tall white spruce trees and dense brush that line the banks. Eagles, peregrine falcon and owls hunt the river corridor. Migratory waterfowl, such as mergansers, shovelheads, goldeneyes and harlequins spend the summers along Beaver Creek.



Arctic grayling

Known for its large dorsal fin, the Arctic grayling is the predominant fish species in the White Mountains. Other types of fish include northern pike, sheefish, burbot and salmon.

Cultural History

Early Athabaskan people used the White Mountains seasonally for hunting caribou and fishing. In the late 1890s, gold miners began mining the tributaries and headwaters of Beaver Creek, and formed the Beaver Creek Mining District. Mining continued in this area until the 1990s.

Please respect the private and Native corporation lands along the Yukon River surrounding Stevens Village. Tribal members, land owners and Native Corporation shareholders are the only people eligible to enter these lands.

Miners and trappers built small cabins throughout the area to support their operations and many still exist along Beaver Creek. While most of these structures are in decay, please respect these sites and do not disturb them.



Private Cabin along Beaver Creek

There are several private cabins and landing strips along Beaver Creek. Please do not land aircraft or disturb these sites, as they are private property.



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Northern Field Office
Fairbanks, Alaska

