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Commissioner

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Department of
Natural Resources

Anchorage, Alaska

STATE OF ALASKA

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: January 29, 2019

Public invited to comment on changes to burning regulations

(Anchorage, AK) – The Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry is now taking public comment on proposed changes to its open burning regulations.

The new wildland fire regulations were rewritten to comply with the updated wildland fire prevention and enforcement statutes passed by the Alaska Legislature in 2018. These regulation changes provide detail for a new tiered prevention and enforcement structure. They include requirements for burn permits, methods of public notice of burn restrictions and descriptions of when different types of burning devices may be used and inspected during fire season.

While the proposed regulations set up a structure for charging fines for burning violations, the purpose of the new regulations is to create a more efficient fire prevention program, reducing the number of human-caused wildland fires and wildfire suppression costs in Alaska.

A copy of the proposed regulation changes is available on the Alaska Online Public Notice System at <https://aws.state.ak.us/OnlinePublicNotices/> or on the Division of Forestry's website at <http://forestry.alaska.gov/whatsnew>, and is available by contacting Alison Arians at alison.arians@alaska.gov or (907) 269-8467.

Comments can be submitted by mail to Alison Arians, Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry, at 550 W. Seventh Ave., Suite 1450, Anchorage, AK 99501-3566 or by email to alison.arians@alaska.gov. Public comments must be submitted no later than 4:30 p.m. on February 27.

The public may submit written questions relevant to the proposed regulations to Alison Arians at the mailing address and/or email address listed above. Questions must be received at least 10 days before the end of the public comment period. The Department of Natural Resources will aggregate its response to substantially similar questions and make the questions and responses available on the Alaska Online Public Notice System and the Division of Forestry's website at the links above.

If you are a person with a disability who needs a special accommodation in order to participate in this process, please contact Alison Arians at alison.arians@alaska.gov or (907) 269-8467 not later than February 13, 2019, to ensure that any necessary accommodations can be provided.

After the public comment period ends, the Department of Natural Resources will either adopt the proposed regulation changes or other provisions dealing with the same subject, without further notice, or decide to take no action. The language of the final regulation may be different from that of the proposed regulation. You should comment during the time allowed if your interests could be affected. Written comments received are public records and are subject to public inspection.

CONTACT: Alison Arians, (907) 269-8467, alison.arians@alaska.gov

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