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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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First Day outings scheduled in Homer, Sitka and Delta Junction state parks

(Anchorage, AK) – Alaska State Parks encourages Alaskans to celebrate the New Year by enjoying the great outdoors in their local state parks. Local volunteer groups will host three hike/ski excursions in Delta Junction, Sitka, and Homer on New Year's Day. These free, guided events listed below are part of the national First Day Hikes initiative (<http://www.naspd.org/initiatives-special-programs/first-day-hikes/>) sponsored by state park systems throughout the United States.

1.5-mile roundtrip hike, ski or snowshoe in the Quartz Lake State Recreation Area

Date/time: Jan. 1, 12 p.m.

Location: Meet at the Glatfelder Trailhead. The Quartz Lake State Recreation Area is ten miles north of Delta Junction and is reached by a three-mile road at mile 277.8 of the Richardson Hwy. Follow the signs to the boat ramp and park in the parking lot adjacent to the Glatfelder Trailhead. From there the group will ski, hike, or snowshoe to the historic Glatfelder log cabin.

Difficulty: Easy

Minimum age for children: All ages are welcome

Restrictions: None

Bring: water, a snack to share afterward, snowshoes/skis/ warm hiking boots and weather appropriate clothing

Cancellation information: 907-451-2698

3-mile roundtrip hike, ski or snowshoe in the Eveline State Recreation Area:

Date/time: Jan. 1, 12 p.m.

Location: Meet at the Eveline State Recreation Area parking lot. Take East End Road for 13.8 miles past the McNeil Canyon School, take the left onto Alpine Meadow Drive and go .3 miles to the trailhead.

Difficulty: Easy

Minimum Age for Children: All ages welcome

Restrictions: Please leave your dogs at home for this hike

Things to bring: Skis/Snowshoes/warm hiking boots (depending on conditions)

Cancellation Information: 907-235-7042

1.5 -3-mile loop hike on Mosquito Cove trail

Date/time: Jan. 1, 9 a.m.

Location: Meet at the Mosquito Cove trail head parking lot. Drive north out the road past the ferry terminal, five miles from town, stop at the sign indicating the end of the road. Just before that sign, take a left into the Bay Side campground, take an immediate right and go half way around the loop and on the right the first parking space with a trail head sign is the beginning of the Mosquito Cove loop trail.

Difficulty: Moderate

Minimum Age for Children: All are welcome

Restrictions: None

Things to bring: Weather appropriate gear, water

Cancellation Information: 907-747-4821

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