

NOTICE OF PROPOSED CHANGES IN THE  
REGULATIONS OF the Department of Natural Resources

The Department of Natural Resources proposes to adopt and amend regulations in Title 11 of the Alaska Administrative Code, dealing with Plant Health and Quarantine, including the following:

- (1) 11 AAC 34 will be amended to clarify the invasive weeds and agricultural pest regulations and develop a framework that will result in more proactive management and prevention. This clarification includes identifying propagative materials of any listed plant and propagative materials of any plant that the director declares invasive or a pest warranting quarantine or eradication as prohibited. Throughout, language is also amended to include gender neutral terms, the correct nomenclature of weeds listed in the regulations, and to identify invasive plants alongside pests as regulated entities.
- (2) 11 AAC 34.130 will be amended include a process to develop a list of pest and invasive plant species subject to quarantine in conjunction with experts and interest groups identified in AS 03.05.027(d).
- (3) 11 AAC 34.140 will be amended to include a process for developing a list of pests and invasive plants including how they should be managed. This list may be regionalized by Soil and Water Conservation District Boundaries to reflect the varying pest and invasive plant management priorities in different regions of Alaska and will encourage coordination between groups identified in AS 03.05.027(d).
- (4) 11 AAC 34.155 will be amended by expanding the list of items which the director could designate as not subject to inspection for pests or invasive plants.
- (5) 11 AAC 34.170 will be amended to include clarifying language in discussing the treatment of pests and invasive plants in shipments. In addition, 11 AAC 34.170(b) will be added to clarify that the approach to managing pests and invasive plants found infesting lands in the state will be dictated by the category of pest as identified in AS 03.05.027(d).

You may comment on the proposed regulation changes, including the potential costs to private persons of complying with the proposed changes, by submitting written comments to Brianne Blackburn with the Division of Agriculture at 5310 S. Bodenbug Spur Rd, Palmer, AK 99645. Additionally, the Division of Agriculture will accept comments by facsimile at (907) 746-1568 and by electronic mail at Brianne.Blackburn@alaska.gov. The comments must be received no later than 4:00pm, on January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2013.

If you are a person with a disability who needs a special accommodation in order to participate in this process, please contact ADA Coordinator at TDD No. 907-269-8411 no later than January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2013 to ensure that any necessary accommodations can be provided.

For a copy of the proposed regulation changes, contact Brianne Blackburn at 5310 S. Bodenbug Spur Rd, Palmer, AK 99645, Brianne.Blackburn@alaska.gov or go to <http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag/>.

After the public comment period ends, the Department of Natural Resources will either adopt these or other provisions dealing with the same subject, without further notice, or decide to take no action on them. The language of the final regulations may be different from that of the proposed regulations. **YOU SHOULD COMMENT DURING THE TIME ALLOWED IF YOUR INTERESTS COULD BE AFFECTED.**

**Statutory Authority:** AS 03.05.010; AS 03.05.030; AS 44.37.030; AS 03.05.027

**Statutes Being Implemented, Interpreted, or Made Specific:** AS 03.05.010; AS 03.05.030; AS 44.37.030; AS 03.05.027

**Fiscal Information:** The proposed regulation changes are not expected to require an increased appropriation.