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Department of
Natural Resources

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STATE OF ALASKA

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: February 28, 2020

Alaska State Parks Mark 50th Anniversary with Summer Celebrations

Excitement to Peak on June 13 with Mountaintop Concert at Chugach State Park

(Anchorage, AK) – With 2020 marking the 50th anniversary of the founding of Alaska State Parks, the State of Alaska Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation will be taking part in statewide celebrations, including 50Fest!, an event featuring live music, food, stories and children’s activities at Arctic Valley Ski Area in Chugach State Park on June 13.

50Fest! will take place at Arctic Valley Ski Area in Chugach State Park from 9 a.m. to midnight on Saturday, June 13. Park officials expect up to 1,000 people will attend to celebrate this landmark in Alaska State Parks history.

50Fest! will begin with a volunteer trail opportunity from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., organized by non-profit organizations Arctic Valley Ski Club and Alaska Trails, in honor of Alaska State Parks in general, and Chugach State Park in particular.

Live music and entertainment will run from noon to midnight, and food trucks will be on site to provide food and drinks for purchase. A beer garden, and a “Kid Zone,” with kid-friendly activities, art projects, games and snacks staffed by the family travel advocacy organization AKontheGo will open at noon and end at 8 p.m. The folk-rock-blues band Hope Social Club will begin playing at 7:45 p.m.

At 10 p.m., the folk-rock band Blackwater Railroad Company will begin performing at the top of Chair 2. Those who attend the Blackwater Railroad Company concert should plan to camp or set up their recreational vehicles near the base of the mountain as the gate to Arctic Valley Road closes at 10 p.m. Campers must hike to the top of the mountain to enjoy this part of the event.

(MORE)

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In addition to 50Fest!, other 50th anniversary events scheduled for the summer include celebrations at: Kachemak Bay on May 9; Kodiak on May 24; Ketchikan on May 16; Big Delta on July 15; Eagle Beach (Juneau) on July 18; Fairbanks on August 7; and Denali State Park on September 12.

A specially designed fiftieth anniversary poster (see attachment) has been designed specifically for these celebrations and will be given to attendees while supplies last.

Friends of Kachemak Bay State Park kicked off their festivities on February 8 with a parade in downtown Homer touting the theme “50 Years of Winter Wilderness.” State-wide events are highlighted on [Alaska State Parks \(ASP\) Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#): a weekly trail highlight on Wednesdays and a monthly photo contest. There is also a calendar on the ASP website’s events page.

For details on these events, visit: <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/asp/calendar.htm>

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