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## Personal-use woodcutting opportunities in Southcentral Alaska

(Anchorage, AK) – The Division of Forestry continues to make spruce beetle-killed trees on selected state land in Matanuska-Susitna and Kenai Peninsula areas available for the public to harvest as personal-use firewood, according to the Alaska Division of Forestry.

The beetle outbreak has killed spruce trees on thousands of acres of state land, generating interest by Alaskans in using the wood to keep their homes warm, and to help maintain healthy forests.

Cutting down and removing beetle-killed trees helps improve public safety and forest health, and reduces the danger of wildland fire. The division has designated beetle kill areas that are open to firewood cutting, and is assessing whether to allow cutting in other areas with significant beetle kill.

Firewood cutting on any state land requires a permit, available at local state forestry division offices, or at the division's website at <a href="https://dnr.alaska.gov/FPS/">https://dnr.alaska.gov/FPS/</a>. The permit costs \$10 per cord of wood, with a three-cord minimum and a ten-cord maximum per year. Areas where cutting is allowed are marked with signs, and the limits of allowable cutting areas are flagged with surveyor's tape.

Those interested in harvesting firewood outside of established wood-cutting areas should contact their local Division of Forestry office for more information, or visit <a href="https://www.forestry.alaska.gov">www.forestry.alaska.gov</a> and see the "Quick Reference" tab for firewood information.

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