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STATE OF ALASKA

PRESS RELEASE

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## **Public urged not to drive on Fairbanks forestry roads during breakup**

**(Fairbanks, AK)** – In what is an annual rite of spring in the Interior, the Fairbanks Area Forestry office is asking the public to avoid driving on select Tanana Valley State Forest roads from April 18 to May 23.

Affected logging roads include Cache Creek, Nenana Ridge, Rosie Creek, Skinnys, Bonanza, Standard Creek, Maisch, Two Rivers and Mosquito Creek.

These silt-based roads become extremely soft and muddy during spring breakup, which makes them susceptible to damage from vehicles and ATVs. Traffic in these tenuous conditions creates ruts, which channels runoff from snow melt and causes roads to wash out, Fairbanks Area Resource Forester Kevin Meany said. Some roads become impassable and motorists risk getting stuck and having their vehicles mired in mud up to their axles.

“If roads are severely damaged by traffic and/or runoff during spring breakup, it can cost thousands of dollars to fix them later and traffic will be restricted until they are repaired,” Meany said. “Getting stuck or ruining a road at this time of year isn’t worth a load of firewood.”

As a reminder, the Fortune Creek bridge replacement and Cache Creek Road improvement project is scheduled to begin next month. The project includes improving more than 10 miles of Cache Creek Road and replacing the dilapidated Fortune Creek bridge at Mile 10.5. The road will be closed to public traffic for duration of the project, which is scheduled through August. To learn more, visit the project website:

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=hunteraccess.tananavalley>.”

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