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Commissioner

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Department of
Natural Resources

Anchorage, Alaska

STATE OF ALASKA

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: May 11, 2021

Celebrate trees by observing Arbor Day in Alaska on May 17

(Anchorage, AK) – Plant a tree. Take a stroll through the woods. Start recycling paper products. Whatever activity you choose, the Division of Forestry encourages Alaskans to celebrate Arbor Day on Monday, May 17.

Established in 1872, Arbor Day is the day set aside each year to plant trees, educate children and adults about the importance of trees, and recognize the important role trees play in our lives. In Alaska, Arbor Day is celebrated on the third Monday of May.

Governor Mike Dunleavy recently signed a proclamation denoting May 17 as Arbor Day in Alaska, in which he invites Alaskans young and old to honor one of the state's greatest assets – its forests.

The governor noted that the spruce bark beetle outbreak of recent years has decimated more than 1 million acres of Southcentral Alaska forests, and killed many thousands of white spruce trees on the Kenai Peninsula, and in the Municipality of Anchorage and Matanuska-Susitna Borough.

“One way to repair some of the damage spruce beetles have wrought on our forests and the trees in our back yards is to replace those dead trees by planting new ones,” Dunleavy said. “Arbor Day is the perfect opportunity to help restore our forests and yards.”

To learn more about planting and caring for trees, visit the division's Community Forestry Program website at: <http://forestry.alaska.gov/community>. For ideas on how to celebrate Arbor Day, visit the national Arbor Day Foundation website at: <https://celebratearborday.com/>

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