

State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources



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Salcha firewood cutting area now open to public

(Fairbanks, AK) – The Alaska Division of Forestry this week opened a personal-use woodcutting area to the public near Salcha.

The Salcha Salvage Woodlot is located on about 20 acres on two islands in the frozen Tanana River. Access to the woodlot is at approximately 318 Mile of the Richardson Highway via Old Valdez Trail.

The woodcutting area is part of a 300-acre salvage timber sale conducted by DOF last year to salvage as much timber as possible before further damage occurs due to rot, insects, wind and additional flooding. The timber, which consists primarily of white spruce, was killed in the past five years as a result of seasonal flooding.

A state firewood cutting permit is required and can be obtained at <https://dnr.alaska.gov/EPS/index.cfm> or the Fairbanks State Forestry office in the Department of Natural Resources building at 3700 Airport Way. The permits stipulate that only dead trees may be cut.

The three-mile access road follows Old Valdez Trail for approximately 1.75 miles before connecting with a plowed ice road. Signs directing permit holders to the woodlot are posted along the road. The access road is fairly rough and narrow in sections and four-wheel drive vehicles are recommended. Firewood cutters should also be prepared to encounter commercial logging trucks on the road.

State Forestry staff will monitor ice thickness on the road but permit holders need to use caution when traveling to the woodcutting area. The area will be closed when ice conditions become unsafe.

For more information on the Salcha Salvage Woodlot or to check on the condition of the road, call Fairbanks Area Resource Forester Kevin Meany at 451-2602 or consult the DOF website at <http://forestry.alaska.gov/wood/firewood.htm>.

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