

## Chena River State Recreation Area Wood Cutting Controls and Permits

Because of increased energy costs throughout the interior, illegal wood cutting has become a more frequent occurrence in the Chena River State Recreation Area (CRSRA). CRSRA is the only State Recreation Area that is legislatively directed to allow any form of wood collection and removal. It is only allowed through Alaska Administrative Code, Title 11 (11 AAC 18.010 (a) (11) in the form of a Special Park Use Permit which is **required** for wood collection and removal within CRSRA.

The Special Park Use Permits cost \$50 and are issued through the Alaska State Parks Northern Area office at the Department of Natural Resources building located at 3700 Airport Way in Fairbanks and must be obtained **prior to** collecting and removing any wood within the CRSRA.

The permit includes several special stipulations for firewood removal. It is important for the permit holder to read and understand these stipulations and how they apply to their operations before collecting and removing wood from the area. Failure to comply with any provision or requirement may result in a citation being issued to permit holder (or non-permit holder), possible suspension or revocation of permit, and possible payments due to the State for cleanup, repair, and/or legal costs associated with illegal wood removal.

The special stipulations include:

**AUTHORIZED TREES:** Only down or burnt timber may be cut and removed from recreation area lands. Only standing trees killed by fire may be felled, or removed. **No timber will be taken closer than 50 yards from any road.**

**CLOSURE NEAR DEVELOPED FACILITIES:** No wood, timber, or other vegetation may be cut or removed from within 1/4-mile of a developed campground, trailhead, picnic area, cabin, or Twin Bears Camp, unless trees have been specifically marked by Division employees for removal.

**COMMERCIAL USE PROHIBITED:** This permit allows only for the personal, non-commercial use of trees for firewood. Wood gathered in the area may not be sold, bartered, or traded.

**OBSTRUCTION OF ROAD:** The permitted party agrees to not engage in activities which may pose a hazard to other recreational users, or obstruct vehicles on Chena Hot Springs Road or any other road or trail in the area; and further agrees to park all vehicles with hazard lights on in a safe manner and in compliance with State law.

**PERMIT CORD LIMIT:** The total household limit which may be gathered under this permit is five (5) cords. Multiple permits may not be issued to increase this amount.

**REMOVAL OF SLASH:** The permitted party **agrees to clean up** and properly dispose of all slash (branches, tops, and other tree debris) within 100 feet of the road surface. Slash may be hauled into the woods and left beyond this distance. Slash may not be deposited in water or left where it might enter the water.

**SPARK ARRESTERS AND ENGINE MUFFLERS:** A muffler and spark arrester satisfactory to the grantor must be maintained on the exhausts of all vehicles, saws and other internal combustion engines used in connection with this permit.

Alaska State Parks will continue to enforce the requirement to possess a permit for wood collection and removal, as well as the special stipulations associated with the permit. Thank you for your cooperation and support in allowing this program to continue and be successful.