

Department of Natural Resources

Division of Mining, Land and Water



Fact Sheet: Veteran's Programs and the Department of Natural Resources

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) administers three benefits granted to eligible veterans by the Alaska State Legislature. These benefits are outlined below.

Veteran's Land Discount

Under this program, eligible veterans can receive a 25 percent discount, minus development costs (see below for details), on the purchase of residential or recreational land from the State (see AS 38.05.940 and 11 AAC 67.891 - .897). However, the Veteran's Discount can only be used once in an applicant's lifetime. This discount cannot be used for purchase of agricultural, commercial, or industrial land.

To be eligible, an individual must submit proof acceptable to the Department that the purchaser:

- Is 18 years of age or older at the date of sale;
- Has been a resident of the State of Alaska for a period of not less than one year immediately preceding the date of sale;
- And has served:
 - a) In the Alaska Territorial Guard for at least 90 days, unless service was shortened by a service-connected disability; or
 - b) On active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces for at least 90 days unless tenure was shortened due to a service-connected disability or due to receiving an early separation after a tour of duty overseas, and has received an honorable discharge or general discharge under honorable conditions.

The Veteran's Land Discount cannot be applied to survey and platting costs, or other costs reimbursable to the state. Applications for the discount must be made at the time of purchase or before entering land sale contract.

Use of the Veteran's Land Discount is not permitted in conjunction with the Veteran's Preference Auction benefit.

Veteran's Preference Auction

The Veteran's Preference Auction allows eligible veterans to receive bidding preference for parcels of land that are five acres or less and residentially zoned (see AS 38.05.067 and 11 AAC 67.050). Purchasing a parcel through the

Veteran's Preference Auction can only happen once in an applicant's lifetime.

In order to give preference to eligible veterans bidding in the Veteran's Preference Auction, bids for the Veteran's Preference Auction are opened before the regular Sealed-Bid Auction. If at least one Veteran's Preference bid is received for a qualifying parcel, a Veteran's Preference Auction will be held, and the Veteran's Preference bidder with the highest bid will be the apparent winner of the parcel, even if higher bids are received for the same parcel in the subsequent regular sealed-bid auction.

A person who purchases land through the Veteran's Preference Auction:

- a) May not sell or otherwise transfer ownership of the land within 5 years, except as determined by the Director, Division of Mining, Land and Water; and
- b) Must submit proof within two years that residential development has begun, including proof of developed access, if necessary, and that improvements such as utility installation, a permanent foundation, or the construction of waste disposal and sanitary facilities have been undertaken.

To be eligible, the bidder must certify and submit along with the bidding packet that he or she:

- Is 18 years of age or older at the date of sale;
- Has been a resident of the State of Alaska for a period of not less than one year immediately preceding the date of sale; and
- Has 90 days or more of active service in the armed forces of the United States and has been honorably discharged, or has been in the Alaska Territorial Guard for 90 days or more.

When the Department offers State land in a Veteran's Preference Auction, it will be well publicized in advance. Eligible veterans will have to meet all other sale requirements.

Disabled Veteran's Camping Pass

The legislature granted Disabled Veterans (DAV) with the right to receive one Alaska State Park Camping Pass free of charge (see AS 41.21.026(d) and 11 AAC 05.170). The DAV Camping Pass is valid in all developed Alaska State Park campgrounds and can be used for camping in individual electric or non-electric campsites, but does not include group campsites. The DAV Camping Pass is issued in odd-numbered years and is good for five years. Day use passes and boat launch passes are not included in this program.

To receive a free DAV camping pass, an eligible disabled veteran is asked to present, in person (if possible), proof of a service-connected disability at either the Anchorage or Fairbanks DNR Public Information Centers (PICs) (see below for contact information). If it is not possible to be physically present, the veteran can call one of the PICs to make other arrangements. An individual's service-connected disability can be verified by the applicant producing one of the following items:

1. The Veterans Universal Access Identification card with the words "SERVICE CONNECTED" printed below the photo ID. This card is plastic and colored red, white, and blue. Other types of VA cards exist

but cannot be accepted as proof of disability. A veteran may obtain this card by calling the Veteran's Administration at 1-800-827-1000; or

2. A current year letter from the U.S. Department of Veteran's Affairs, which states the person has a service-connected disability and is signed by the Veteran Services Officer. The percentage of disability on the letter does not influence qualifying.

A lifetime membership card from the "Disabled American Veterans" Organization is not acceptable proof for this program.

The Disabled Veteran camping pass is non-transferable. If the qualified DAV's vehicle is sold, the decal must be removed. Or, if the windshield is broken and must be replaced, the individual is requested to scrape as much of the decal off as possible and return the remains to any area office. In either of these cases, a replacement decal will be issued for \$10 upon receipt of the removed decal. If the decal is lost or if no remains of a previous decal can be produced, and DNR has record of the owner's previous issuance of the DAV decal, a one-time replacement decal may be purchased for \$100.

For further information, please contact the Anchorage or Fairbanks Public Information Center:

Department of Natural Resources
Public Information Center
550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1360
Anchorage, AK 99501-3561
Phone: 907-269-8400
Fax: 907-269-8901
dnr.pic@alaska.gov

Department of Natural Resources
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3700 Airport Way
Fairbanks, AK 99709-4699
Phone: 907-451-2705
Fax: 907-451-2706
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Statewide TTY – 711 for Alaska Relay or 1-800-770-8973