

John Boyle  
Commissioner

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Department of  
Natural Resources

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STATE OF ALASKA

PRESS RELEASE

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## Avoid Driving on Fairbanks Forestry Roads During Breakup

**(Fairbanks, AK)** – In the annual rite of spring breakup in Interior Alaska, the Fairbanks Area Forestry office is urging the public to avoid driving on select Tanana Valley State Forest roads from April 12 to May 26.

Affected logging roads include Cache Creek, Nenana Ridge, Rosie Creek, Skinny's, Bonanza Creek, Standard Creek, Two Rivers and Mosquito Creek.

The silt-based roads in the Fairbanks area become extremely soft and muddy during breakup, making them susceptible to damage from vehicles and ATVs. Some roads become impassable and motorists risk getting stuck and having their vehicles mired in mud up to their axles. Traffic in these tenuous conditions creates ruts, which channels runoff from snow melt and causes roads to wash out.

"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," Fairbanks Area Resource Forester Andrew Allaby said. "The State is asking Alaskans to stay off forestry roads – getting stuck or ruining a road at this time of year isn't worth a load of firewood."

*The Department of Natural Resources' mission is to develop, conserve, and maximize the use of Alaska's natural resources consistent with the public interest.*

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