



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Natural Resources

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1400
Anchorage, AK 99501-3561
Main: 907.269-8431
Fax: 907-269-8918

January 15, 2021

Subject: **Department Fee Regulations, Title 11, Alaska Administrative Code
Opportunity to Comment on Proposed Regulations**

Dear Alaskan:

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is proposing to revise its fee regulations to fine-tune and follow up on the department's wholesale fee regulation overhaul package in 2018. I am writing to explain the proposed regulations, why we are proposing this regulation package now, and how this action relates to the ongoing resource management process. I invite you to review and comment on these proposed regulations.

Why Do We Need These Regulations Now?

In July 2018, DNR adopted revised fee regulations to repeal and replace its previous 35-year-old regulations. The revision was the culmination of over three years work involving each division and office of the department. The then-existing regulations were difficult to use and, in order to continue effectively providing its services, the department needed to generate additional revenues in response to declining oil revenues. Because of the complexity of the 2018 regulation changes, DNR anticipated that additional changes would be necessary after implementation of those new regulations.

As expected, the Division of Mining, Land and Water (DMLW) and the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation (DPOR) identified issues regarding the clarity of some regulations, the amounts of fees, or the application of new fees. DMLW also identified changes that should be made to address issues such as Kasilof mooring buoys, visitor day use fees, and commercial recreation registration. DPOR proposes to amend 11 AAC 05.170(d) regarding entities to which certain fees apply.

Public Hearings

Under AS 41.21.026, DNR will conduct a public hearing to collect public comments on its proposed amendments to 11 AAC 05 and 11 AAC 96 relating to fees. This hearing will be conducted primarily for purposes of AS 41.21.026(c) regarding changes to fees for the use of state park system facilities, but comments may be made on any proposed amendment. You may provide oral comments relevant to the proposed action **via telephone** at the hearing to be held on January 28, 2021, **by calling 907-202-7104, phone conference ID 465 970 785#**. **Due to public health and safety concerns associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, there will not be in-person attendance provided at the hearing site, so please prepare to share your oral comments by telephone only.** The hearing is scheduled from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. and priority will be given to commenters on the line before the beginning of the hearing. The hearing may be extended to accommodate those on the line before 7:30 p.m., who did not have an opportunity to comment. Before the start of the hearing, DNR may limit the time allotted for each person providing oral testimony, as reasonably necessary to conclude the hearing in the time provided.

Opportunity for Comment

Interested parties are encouraged to review the proposed regulations and submit any comments to DNR. Enclosed is the official “Notice of Proposed Changes on Fees in the Regulations of the Department of Natural Resources,” which provides details regarding the submission of public comments. You can view the proposed regulations on the Alaska Online Public Notice System and on DMLW’s news website at <https://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/news/>, and DPOR’s current events website at <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/asp/curevnts.htm>.

You are invited to comment on these proposed regulation changes. For your comments to be considered, DNR must receive them no later than **5:00 p.m. on February 26, 2021**. Comments must be in writing, and may be mailed, faxed, or e-mailed to the address below. Please see the Notice of Proposed Changes for additional information.

Attn: Brandon McCutcheon
Division of Mining, Land and Water
550 W 7th Ave., Suite 1070
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3579
Fax: (907) 269-8904
E-Mail: dnr.fees.regulation@alaska.gov

You may also submit written questions relevant to the proposed regulations to Brandon McCutcheon at the address or e-mail above. Questions must be received at least 10 days before the end of the public comment period (**by February 16, 2021**). DNR will aggregate its response to substantially similar questions and make the questions and responses available on the Alaska Online Public Notice System and on our websites at: <https://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/news/> and <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/asp/curevnts.htm>.

For more information regarding DNR’s proposed fee regulations or a copy of the proposed regulation changes, go to <https://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/news/>, <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/asp/curevnts.htm>, or contact Brandon McCutcheon at the email or address above.

If you are a person with a disability who needs a special accommodation to participate in this process, please contact Brandon McCutcheon no later than **February 16, 2021**, to ensure that any necessary accommodations can be provided.

Thank you for your consideration of these proposed regulations. DNR looks forward to reading your comments and suggestions.

Sincerely,

[Signature on File]

Corri A. Feige
Commissioner, State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources