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DNR addresses impacts from potential shutdown

(Anchorage, AK) – If a government shutdown occurs, the Alaska Department of Natural Resources anticipates significant impacts on activities that occur on state lands and water but will ensure necessary work continues to protect the life, health and safety of Alaskans.

Under the governor's reduced Fiscal Year 2016 budget, DNR will continue wildland firefighting operations, the Alaska Volcano Observatory and the state's dam safety program. DNR also will be able to operate Alaska state parks using non-general fund resources through the month of August. DNR programs that do not rely on general fund expenditures also will continue, including the Recorder's Office, Mental Health Trust Land Office, Office of Project Management and Permitting, State Pipeline Coordinator's Office, and Office of Boating Safety.

However, due to delayed issuance of permits and authorizations, even a temporary shutdown could have significant impacts to the public and the natural resource industries that provide almost all of the State's revenue. Governor Walker is hopeful the Alaska Legislature will reach a compromise so this shutdown doesn't occur, but out of an abundance of caution, he wants Alaskans to know the following services provided by DNR will be significantly curtailed or halted, effective July 2:

- Delayed issuance of a variety of DNR permits and authorizations
- Closure of the DNR Public Information Center locations in Anchorage and Fairbanks which handle customer service calls and visits
- Reduced agriculture services, including the seed and pathology labs, seed sales and the following programs: horticulture, forage, soils, revegetation, marketing, invasive weeds and technical on-farm assistance

For additional information regarding DNR's shutdown plans, contact Communications Coordinator Elizabeth Bluemink at 907-269-8434 or elizabeth.bluemink@alaska.gov

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