



FOREST SERVICE
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News Release

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Chugach National Forest to Burn Debris Piles near Portage

Anchorage: Chugach National Forest wildland fire management staff plan to burn piles of woody debris on forest lands in the Portage area beginning the week of April 13 through May 1, weather conditions permitting. The project area is north of Milepost 78 along the Seward Highway between the Placer River and Placer Overflow.

Prior to igniting the piles, Forest Service staff will work with the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation to assess weather patterns and conditions to ensure efficient smoke dispersal. During all ignitions, staff will monitor smoke. Smoke may be visible near the highway, in the surrounding area and from aircraft.

The Chugach National Forest 'Wood Bison' pile burning project is part of a combined effort with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Natural Resource Conservation Service and the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center to provide pasture land for a captive wood bison herd that will be reintroduced to Western Alaska.

The piles are a result of clearing the area to create grazing pasture for the wood bison. By burning over 100 piles within a 138-acre fenced pasture, fire staff will reduce the existing piles and increase the grazing area.

Follow @ChugachForestAK for current pile burning and smoke information.

For more information, please contact the Glacier Ranger District in Girdwood at 907-783-3242.

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