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PRESS RELEASE

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Public urged not to travel on Fairbanks forestry roads during breakup

(City, AK) – It's that time of year again. With the snow melting and Tanana Valley State Forest roads sagging due to saturated soils as a result of spring breakup, the Alaska Division of Forestry is asking the public to avoid driving on select forest roads in the Fairbanks area from April 17 to May 23.

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

"The silt-based roads in the Fairbanks area are extremely soft and muddy at this time of year," Fairbanks Area Resource Forester Kevin Meany said. "Traffic in these tenuous conditions produces ruts, which channels runoff and causes roads to wash out."

Some roads become impassable and driving on them now results in costly, long-term damage, he said. Motorists can also find their vehicles mired in mud up to their axles.

"If roads are severely damaged by traffic and/or runoff during spring breakup, it can cost thousands of dollars to fix them and access will be restricted until they are repaired and dry enough to drive on," Meany said. "Getting stuck or ruining a road at this time of year isn't worth a load of firewood."

If roads dry out quicker than anticipated or breakup persists longer than expected, the division will adjust the dates accordingly and notify the public.

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PHOTO CAPTION: Erosion caused by runoff during breakup on Cache Creek Road near Fairbanks as photographed in May 2020. Photo by Andrew Allaby/Division of Forestry.



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