

U.S. ARMY GARRISON FORT WAINWRIGHT QUARTERLY UPDATE FOR ALASKA NATIVE TRIBES

April 2012, Issue 28

This is a quarterly update on United States Army Garrison Fort Wainwright activities and issues of interest to federally recognized tribes in Alaska.

Fort Wainwright Celebrates Earth Day

On Friday, April 20, U.S. Army Garrison Fort Wainwright (USAG FWA) held its second annual observance of Earth Day. The theme—*If not you, who? If not now, when?*—reinforced the Army theme of *Net Zero*. Net Zero is an initiative setting a sustainability target for Army installations world-wide. The goal is to balance the amounts of waste produced with waste recycled/not created and energy used with energy created/conserved.

The event included information booths, activities for children, several panel discussions where experts in various fields discussed aspects of sustainability — personal and environmental. The 9th Army band performed, a proclamation committing the garrison and local communities to the goals of Earth Day was signed, and a cake was cut and eaten.



Forester Adam Davis preps the potato stamp craft station.



Archaeology Tech Maegan Ellicott mans the cultural resources booth.

Alaska and Fairbanks Rescue Mission distributed information about recycling waste and reusable items back into the resource stream of our local communities.

The event was sponsored by the garrison and executed by the Plans, Analysis, and Integration Office (PAIO). Fort Wainwright Earth Day events are open to the public. Mark your calendars for next year's event!

Staff from the Environmental Division joined other garrison departments in hosting booths. Environmental Division booths presented information on cultural resources on Army lands; understanding the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process; responsible land use (including trespass prevention, food resource preservation, and subsistence awareness); how air sparging works to remove pollutants from the ground and groundwater; and how to reutilize discarded items into useful ones.

USAG FWA partners and community organizations also had booths. Doyon Utilities, North Haven Communities, and UAF all were present with Earth-friendly tips or activities. Green Star



Restoration staff member Dave Fish explains the finer points of air sparging.

UPDATE — Draft Joint Pacific Area Range Complex (JPARC) Modernization and Enhancement Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was released to the public on March 30. The document is available for review at local libraries and online at www.jpargcis.com. Public comment meetings are scheduled around the state from May 11 through 23. Comments are due by June 7. See the website or contact Alaskan Command Public Affairs at (907) 552-2341 for more information.

ICRMP Soon to be Available for Tribal Government Review

The Integrated Cultural Resource Management Plan (ICRMP) will be available for review in late May. This plan is created by the USAG FWA Cultural Resources with input from stakeholders in order to establish agreeable protocols for managing the cultural resources on USAG FWA-managed lands. If you are interested in reviewing the document for interest or comment and have not already been contacted by USAG FWA staff, please contact the Native Liaison at elizabeth.a.cook80.ctr@mail.mil or (907) 361-6323.

Stocked Lakes at Donnelly Training Area (DTA)

Provided by Elizabeth Neipert, DTA Wildlife Biologist

USAG FWA strives to maintain an interactive relationship with local communities by providing as many opportunities for public access as current military training permits. This includes providing high quality natural resources-based, outdoor recreation opportunities and informational materials, including the brochure *Fishing the Stocked Lakes of Donnelly Training Area*.

Created cooperatively by the Sport Fish Division of Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG) and USAG FWA Natural Resources personnel, this publication has been widely used by DTA anglers. In recent years, however, this publication has become out-of-date and largely unavailable in hard copy. It is currently being updated to better describe the many angling opportunities, access sites, regulations, available species, and maps for the 19 lakes currently stocked on DTA.

The original brochure and— due out in late summer— the revised version can be downloaded at the ADFG website — <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fishingSportFishingInfo.InteriorPublications>.

For additional information on recreating on military lands and to download an updated recreation map, please visit <http://www.usarak.army.mil/conservation>.

Alaska Summer Research Academy is Coming to Fort Wainwright

provided by Julie Esdale, USAG FWA Archaeologist

Fort Wainwright is working together with the University of Alaska Museum (UAM) to provide a module for the Alaska Summer Research Academy (ASRA). ASRA is an intensive two-week learning experience for students with an interest in science and technology. Junior high and high school students compete to gain a spot on a real life project with scientists and researchers from the University of Alaska Fairbanks and the community. This summer's archaeology module will take place at UAM and the Big Lake Overlook site near the Delta River in Fort Wainwright's Donnelly Training Area. Students will learn excavation and site recording techniques and take their data back to the UAM Archaeology Laboratory. There they will employ scientific methods to analyze archaeological data and learn how museum professionals preserve and store artifacts for future research.

Find out more at: <http://www.uaf.edu/asra/asra-2012/archaeology/>.



Ms. Maureen Sullivan Visits Fairbanks

On April 18 Ms. Maureen Sullivan, the Director of Environmental Management-Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Installations and Environment), visited Fort Wainwright. Ms. Sullivan is the overseer of the development of environmental policy, programs, and strategic plans for DoD activities throughout the United States. Ms. Sullivan is the DoD Federal Preservation Officer and holds responsibility for the DoD Native American program, including the Native American Lands Environmental Mitigation Program (NALEMP). She is the DoD member of the White House Interagency Climate Change Adaptation Task Force and the General Services Administration's Green Building Advisory Committee.

Ms. Sullivan visited with USARAK commander MG Raymond Palumbo and USAG FWA commander COL Ron Johnson. She received briefings on environmental restoration efforts at Fort Wainwright and its associated training lands; the Native Liaison program and government-to-government activities; and the history of Fort Wainwright through World War II and the Cold War. Following the indoor portion of the presentation, all walked a portion of the established Fort Wainwright historical walking/driving tour. Ms. Sullivan was then taken to view aircraft hangers 2 and 3, currently the subject of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that is analyzing alternatives for their future disposition. To end her tour, she visited the Taku Gardens housing area and discussed with Environmental Restoration staff some of the challenges being faced in cleaning up remnants of early Fort Wainwright activity.

While in Alaska, Ms. Sullivan also visited with personnel at Eielson Air Force Base and Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson and addressed NALEMP fund recipient tribes at their annual gathering in Anchorage.

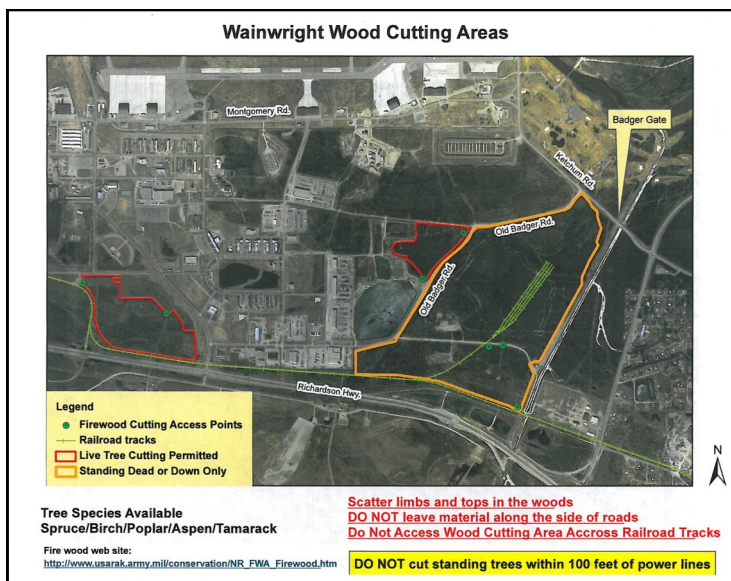
Firewood Available Year-round at Fort Wainwright and Yukon Training Area

Did you know that road-accessible locations on Army-managed lands where facilities and training areas are being developed are regularly opened for timber sales? As part of the development process, those lands are assessed by USAG FWA Foresters who flag and map the areas. This information is then made available to the public. A variety of firewood is available, from standing to downed/dried timber, dependent on the location.

Members of the public may obtain a permit to cut and retrieve wood at the Environmental Division office, Building 3023 Engineer Place on Fort Wainwright, Monday through Friday 8:00 am to 4:30 pm. A permit for wood cutting costs \$30.00 (\$10.00 per cord, 3 cord minimum) and payment must be made by check or money order payable to *U.S. Treasury*.

At the time the permit is acquired, timber sales customers will also be prompted to acquire a free Recreational Access Permit (RAP) if they do not already have one. The RAP is required of all individuals who recreate or hunt on Army-managed lands and is available at the Environmental Division office or the front gates of Forts Wainwright or Greely. The RAP issues the holder a number that is then used to check on and off lands using the USARTRAK system. USARTRAK notifies users if areas are closed for training.

Areas open for timber harvest change regularly. Maps of currently open areas can be found at http://www.usarak.army.mil/conservation/NR_FWA_Firewood.htm. For more information about firewood sales on Army lands contact USAG FWA Foresters Dan Rees at (907) 361-9318 or Shawn Osborn at (907) 361-4539.



Prescribed Burn Notices

DONNELLY TRAINING AREA: The Bureau of Land Management Alaska Fire Service (AFS), in coordination with USAG FWA will conduct multiple prescribed burns in Donnelly Training Area East. Burning may be initiated any time between April 19 and May 31, when suitable weather conditions exist. Fire will only be ignited when the burning conditions are optimal and air quality will not be affected.

The burns will remove dried grass and brush from approximately 900 acres of the Battle Area Complex (BAX), 150 acres of the Wills Range Complex, and 1,000 acres of the Windy Ridge area. The purpose of the prescribed burns is to reduce fuels, thereby reducing the potential for a wildfire during live-fire training exercises. Smoke from the prescribed burns may be visible in Delta Junction and the Donnelly Training Area, but is not expected to linger because the primary vegetation burned will be grass and brush.

YUKON TRAINING AREA: The AFS, in coordination with USAG FWA will conduct multiple prescribed burns in the Yukon Training Area near Moose Creek. Ignition on the Digital Multipurpose Training Range (DMPTR) is planned as early as April 28 and may continue through May 15 as weather conditions permit.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact the Alaska Fire Service at (907) 356-5554.

Looking for LOTS of Fire Wood? USAG FWA also has Timber Lots for Sale

Occasionally USAG FWA Foresters plan large timber sales. These are large units of timber that need to be removed for project location development and different rules apply than those for regular timber sales.

Two such lots are currently available at Gerstle River Training Area that are being cleared in support of a project to build wildlife habitat. The two ten-acre lots contain standing birch forest and, once cut, should yield approximately 100 cords each. Each unit must be bought in its entirety at the current rate in Delta Junction of \$15/cord (therefore, making the purchase \$1,500). Timber lots at Gerstle River Training Area are truck-accessible during non-snow months.

Parties interested in these lots should make an appointment with USAG FWA staff to see maps and visit the flagged lots. Upon full payment, the customer then has a period of time to remove timber from the location.



This 200-400 year old hammered copper point was found by staff archaeologists at Donnelly Training Area during the 2008 field season. The copper is from the Copper River basin. The arrow point would have been mounted in a bone, antler, or wood shaft.

Disposition of Hangars 2 and 3 EIS Update

Provided by Carrie McEnteer, NEPA Branch Chief

USAG FWA continues work on the NEPA and NHPA Section 106 efforts to help Army decision-makers determine a future disposition for Hangars 2 and 3 at Fort Wainwright. These twin Birchwood hangars were constructed in 1943 and are integral components of the Ladd Field World War II National Historic Landmark. USAG FWA completed the scoping process in January 2012.

Historic preservation concerns as well as suggestions for possible reuses of the buildings were expressed by the public and several local, state and federal agencies. The Army intends to make the Draft EIS available for review in October of this year and complete the Section 106 and NEPA process by Fall 2013. If you are interested in participating in the NEPA or NHPA process and desire additional information, contact the USAG FWA Native Liaison at elizabeth.a.cook80.ctr@mail.mil or (907) 361-6323. Information can also be obtained from the USAG FWA Environmental Division website, <http://www.wainwright.army.mil/env/>

Directorate of Public Works
Environmental Division
ATTN: IMFW-PWE (Cook)
1060 Gaffney Road #4500
Fort Wainwright, Alaska 99703-4500

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Issues of this newsletter are mailed to tribal administrators and tribal leaders. Please post these newsletters for your tribal and community members to share. Thank you.