

John Boyle
Commissioner

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Department of
Natural Resources

Anchorage, Alaska

STATE OF ALASKA

PRESS RELEASE

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New Carbon Offset Program Draft Regulations Available

(Anchorage, AK) – The Carbon Offset Program is soliciting public and agency input to draft regulations for the new program. The proposed regulations are open to comments from the general public, communities, landowners, carbon project developers and registries, resource development industries, and other stakeholders, as well as other state, local, and federal agencies until April 29, 2024. More information is available in the Public Notice: [Notice of Proposed Carbon Offset Projects on State Land Regulations - Alaska Online Public Notices](#)

“Regulations are a critical step in our goal to monetize the carbon-removal benefits of Alaska’s vast natural resources by leveraging free-market demand for decarbonization,” **said Governor Mike Dunleavy**. “We have the opportunity to grow our economy while actively managing our forests and ensuring continued public access and use of State of Alaska lands.”

The draft provisions relate to the Carbon Offset Program created by Senate Bill 48 during the last legislative session and signed by Governor Dunleavy in 2023. Regulations provide the necessary framework for DNR to implement carbon projects on State of Alaska lands. They include steps and criteria for identifying projects, evaluating projects to determine if they’re in the State’s best interests, contracting for project services, and registering projects to ensure they provide a measurable and meaningful carbon-reduction benefit.

“Carbon offsets can be a substantial new revenue stream for the people of Alaska. Through active management of the state’s forests, we can improve forest health, mitigate our risk of wildfires, and grow our inventory of merchantable timber which will lead to further economic opportunities,” **said DNR Commissioner John Boyle**. “The Carbon Offset Program is an innovative new program in line with DNR’s overall mission to develop, conserve and maximize the use of Alaska’s natural resources for the benefit of Alaskans.”

As outlined in the regulations, the Carbon Offset Program allows DNR to develop nature-based, carbon-removal projects on State lands. By investing in these projects, companies can “offset” their carbon footprint and achieve voluntarily set commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and meet net-zero carbon goals.

Senate Bill 48 created two separate pathways for developing carbon reduction projects on State lands:

- Carbon Offset Program through DNR’s Office of Project Management & Permitting: allows the State to develop its own carbon projects and to generate revenue through the sale of carbon credits issued by a registry to those projects. These draft regulations can

be found here:

<https://aws.state.ak.us/OnlinePublicNotices/Notices/View.aspx?id=214769>

- Carbon Leasing Program in DNR's Division of Mining, Land & Water: enables leasing State lands to a third-party that wants to develop a carbon project. That third party would do the work of identifying, planning, and developing the project, and would need to compensate the state for the use of the land. Draft regulations for the Carbon Leasing Program are expected to be available for public input later this spring.

DNR's Division of Forestry & Fire Protection will play a key role in forest-based projects, including updating State Forest Management Plans to allow for carbon projects in the three state forests. The forest plan revisions are underway for the Tanana Valley State Forest and Haines State Forest, and will also be open to public comments in 2024.

The goal is for both the State Carbon Offset Program and Carbon Leasing Program regulations to be in effect by the middle of 2024. Media and Alaskans can monitor our Carbon Offset Program and Carbon Leasing on State Land webpage for more updates:

<https://dnr.alaska.gov/carbon>

The Department of Natural Resources' mission is to develop, conserve, and maximize the use of Alaska's natural resources consistent with the public interest.

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