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Allen Richmond

Steven Lay

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Fairbanks, Alaska

Series: University focus

University of Alaska campus in Fairbanks, Alaska

Allen Richmond said the wood will be stacked up along the access roads and people can load it on to their truck. Steven Lay said Richmond was talking about an intensive forest management project which the university is undertaking in cooperation with the state of Alaska. The project is studying ways to maximize firewood supplies while improving Interior forests. Richmond said the objective is to demonstrate some timber harvesting practices for fuel wood purposes that would enhance the growth on the forests in the Fairbanks area. Lay said in the first part of the project crews will be hired to remove all the birch, aspen and dead spruce from a 95 acre tract in the Bonanza Experimental Forest. The tree limbs will be removed and the usable wood will be hauled to areas for easy access by wood gatherers. The commercial quality spruce will be left for future harvest. This additional labor costs money and the state will be charging a fee to partially offset these increased costs. Richmond said they will be permitting for wood from these projects through the state area forestry office. It will be personal use by individuals. Permit holders will be allowed to get up to 10 cords of wood per permit from the state. The state will be charging higher rates than what is currently being charged. They will determine how much money they can actually recover from the contract costs of harvesting, Lay said the permits will be available beginning in the middle of October. Richmond describes the procedure involved in this first project. Richmond said they will be handling it through the state forestry office. Individuals will be issued a permit for the area. They can purchase from one to ten cords for the area. People will be allowed to work in the area on weekends only. There will be someone there gauging the volume of wood permit holders remove and punching the card to get a good idea how much wood is being taken out. He believes this will increase the amount of firewood available to the public. It will also increase protection of the local forests. Through close supervision only selected trees will be removed. This will allow the remaining trees to grow into more valuable timber. This has always been the intention of the state, but has not always worked out in the past. Richmond said it will protect the forest by allowing the state to control what is being cut off of the land. They have had problems in the past with people cutting unmarked trees or clearcutting. It will give the state control of what is actually taken and the volume that is taken out. Lay said people can contact Richmond for more information

Steven Lay reports on campus activities including a conference on coal.