

# State Parks Permit Update

GeocacheAlaska! Inc.  
2026 Alaska State Parks Use Permit

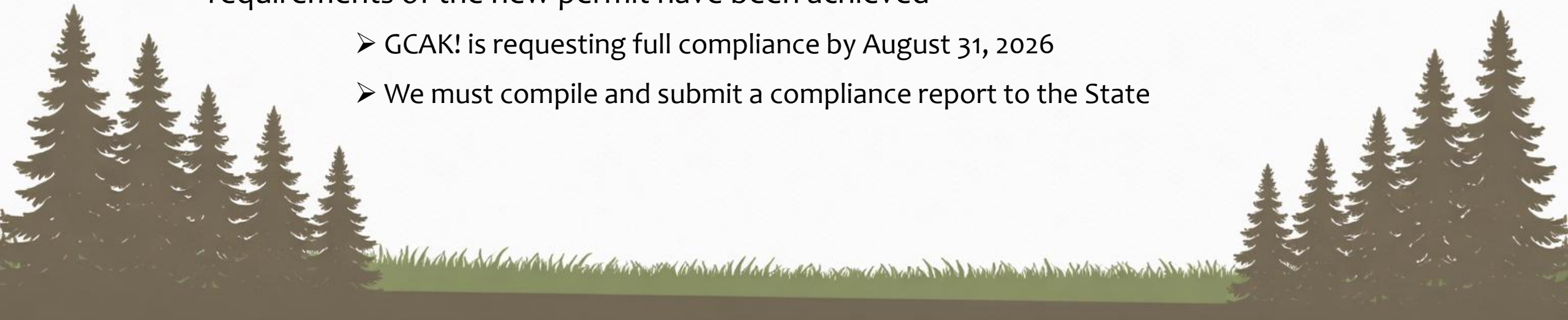


# Geocaching in Alaska State Parks



- New 2026 Permit

- This permit ONLY applies to official Alaska State Parks (ASP) land
- All prior ASP Permits are null and void with NO grandfather clause
- All existing geocaches within Alaska State Parks must comply with the stipulations of the new permit as soon as possible
- GeocacheAlaska! Inc. must report to Alaska State Parks by the end of 2026 that all requirements of the new permit have been achieved
  - GCAK! is requesting full compliance by August 31, 2026
  - We must compile and submit a compliance report to the State



# Why New Rules for Geocaching in ASP?

- Alaska State Parks (ASP) has classified geocaching as a non-compliant use
- ASP Rangers have identified violations of prior permit stipulations
- ASP has concerns about protection of resources, such as historic sites and newly defined wilderness areas of Chugach State Park
- ASP has also identified concerns about containers being placed on park structures and the creation of new social trails leading to caches
- GeocacheAlaska! Inc. has worked closely with ASP to address concerns and adjust permit wording to allow geocaching to continue within ASP
- Failure to accept this permit would have put an end to geocaching in ASP



# The Biggest Changes

- Alaska State Parks has decided that no more than 500 geocaches may exist across all ASP lands
- When this permit went into effect, there were over 1,100 caches in our State Parks; geocachers will be required to archive and remove over 600 existing geocaches from the parks to comply with new permit limits
- No new caches will be published until the active total is less than 500
- Cache Owners must physically visit their caches annually and log the visit
- **Chugach State Park** has a new cache size limitation of Micro
  - All caches with a container larger than a Micro must be removed ASAP



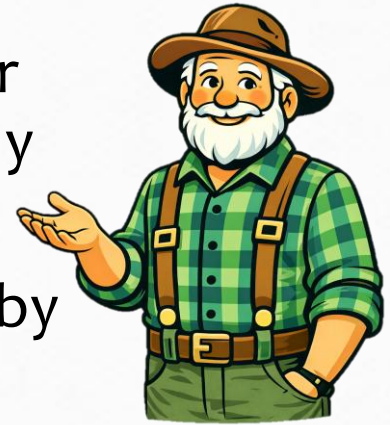
# 500 !

- This is a State Parks-imposed limit
- No new caches allowed until the existing number falls below 500
- New caches will be published by the Reviewer in accordance with current Geocaching HQ guidelines and Permit stipulations
- GCAK! is **not** involved in the selecting or removing of any geocaches



# Getting down to the 500 Limit

- All geocachers with a State Parks cache should voluntarily archive their cache as soon as possible if they are not willing and able to fully comply with the new permit requirements
- Geocaching HQ, via the Local Reviewer, will facilitate cache reduction by posting Reviewer Notes to caches that need to be removed for non-compliance with the new permit and then archiving the caches after an appropriate time to allow the CO to correct the problem or remove the cache using the existing cache placement guidelines from GCHQ



# Cache Size Changes

- All geocaches within the **Chugach State Park** are limited to Micro size, with maximum physical size of a standard preform container or less
- The maximum container size for all other State Parks placements is a Regular 50-caliber ammo can
- Any cache larger than these size limits must be removed immediately



# No Geocache Areas

- No geocaches within designated Campgrounds
- No geocaches in designated State Historic Parks
- No geocaches on, in, or attached to any man-made State Parks facility or structure, including but not limited to bear boxes, trash cans, latrines, cabins, picnic tables, or signs
- No geocaches in designated Wilderness Areas of any State Park



# No Caching in Historic Parks & Sites

## • Historic State Parks

- Independence Mine State Historical Park (Palmer)
- Totem Bight State Historical Park (Ketchikan)
- Fort Abercrombie State Historical Park (Kodiak)
- Big Delta State Historical Park (Delta Junction)
- Old Sitka State Historical Park (Sitka)



## • State Historic Sites

- Petroglyph Beach State Historic Site (Wrangell)
- Ernest Gruening State Historical Park (Juneau)
- Potter Section House State Historical Site (Anchorage)
- Fort Rousseau Causeway State Historical Park (Sitka)
- Wickersham State Historic Site (Juneau)
- Baranof Castle State Historic Site (Sitka)

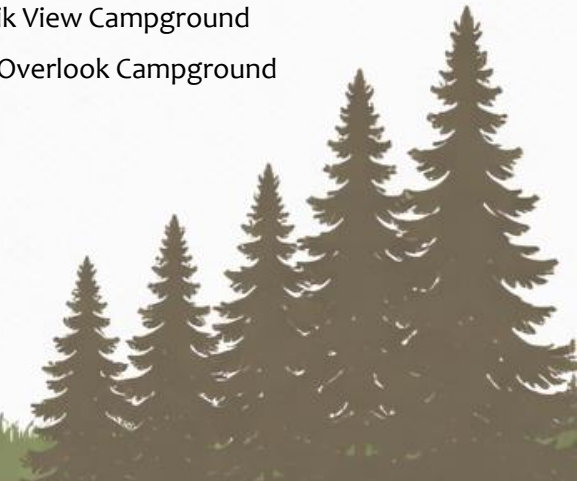
# State Parks Designated Campgrounds

- No geocaches may be placed in any designated campground or near any designated campsites in other State Parks areas
- Any existing geocaches in campgrounds must be removed ASAP



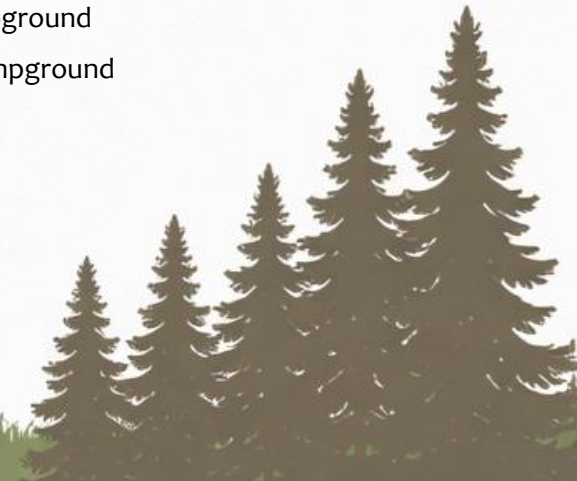
# State Parks Campgrounds

- Chugach SP - Bird Creek Campground
- Chugach SP - Bird Creek Overflow Campground
- Chugach SP - Eagle River Campground
- Chugach SP - Eklutna Lake Campground
- Big Delta SHP Campground
- Clearwater SRS Campground
- Delta SRS Campground
- Donnelly Creek SRS Campground
- Fielding Lake SRS Campground
- Quartz Lake SRA - Quartz Lake Campground
- Quartz Lake SRA - Lost Lake Campground
- Birch Lake SRS Campground
- Chena River SRA - Red Squirrel Campground
- Chena River SRA - Rosehip Campground
- Chena River SRA - Granite Tors Trail Campground
- Harding Lake SRA Campground
- Lower Chatanika River SRA - Whitefish Campground
- Lower Chatanika River SRA - Olmes Pond Campground
- Upper Chatanika SRS Campground
- Salcha River SRS Campground
- Eagle Trail SRS Campground
- Moon Lake SRS Campground
- Tok River SRS Campground
- Chilkat SP Campground
- Chilkoot Lake SRS Campground
- Mosquito Lake SRS Campground
- Eagle Beach SRA Campground
- Settlers Cove SRS Campground
- Anchor River SRA - Coho Campground
- Anchor River SRA - Halibut Campground
- Anchor River SRA - Silverking Campground
- Anchor River SRA - Slidehole Campground
- Anchor River SRA - Steelhead Campground
- Stariski SRS Campground
- Kachemak Bay SP/MP - Any developed campsites
- Deep Creek SRA - Deep Creek Beach Campground
- Deep Creek SRA - North Scenic Overlook Campground
- Deep Creek SRA - South Scenic Overlook Campground
- Ninilchik SRA - Ninilchik River Campground
- Ninilchik SRA - Ninilchik View Campground
- Ninilchik SRA - Scenic Overlook Campground



# State Parks Campgrounds

- Captain Cook SRA - Discovery Campground
- Caines Head SRA - Campsite Areas
- Thumb Cove SMP - Campsite Areas
- Clam Gulch SRA Campground
- Crooked Creek SRS Campground
- Johnson Lake SRA Campground
- Kenai River SMA - Bing's Landing Campground
- Kenai River SMA - Funny River Campground
- Kenai River SMA - Izaak Walton Campground
- Kenai River SMA - Morgan's Landing Campground
- Decision Point SMP - Campsite Areas
- South Esther Island SMP - Campsite Areas
- Surprise Cove SMP - Campsite Areas
- Blueberry Lake SRS Campground
- Jack Bay SMP - Any developed campsites
- Sawmill Bay SMP - Any developed campsites
- Shoup Bay SMP - Any developed campsites
- Buskin River SRS Campground
- Fort Abercrombie SHP Campground
- Pasagshak SRS Campground
- Dry Creek SRS Campground
- Lake Louise SRA Campground
- Liberty Falls SRS Campground
- Porcupine Creek SRS Campground
- Squirrel Creek SRS Campground
- Finger Lake SRS Campground
- King Mountain SRS Campground
- Matanuska Glacier SRS Campground
- Matanuska Lakes SRA Campground
- Hatcher Pass - Government Peak Campground
- Hatcher Pass - Goldmint Campground
- Denali SP - Byers Lake Campground
- Denali SP - Denali View North Campground
- Denali SP - Denali View South Campground
- Denali SP - Lower Troublesome Creek Campground
- Denali State Park - K'esugi Ken Campground
- Montana Creek SRS Campground
- Big Lake North SRS Campground
- Big Lake South SRS Campground
- Rocky Lake SRS Campground
- Nancy Lake SRA - South Rolly Lake Campground
- Nancy Lake SRA - Tanaina Lake Canoe Trail Campsites
- Nancy Lake SRS Campground
- Willow Creek SRA Campground



# No Animal Attractants

- Geocache containers may not be made from any container that previously held food (e.g. peanut butter jars)
- No food or scented items may be placed in any geocache



# Caches and Annual Maintenance

- Geocache containers and/or the Log must be permanently marked with:  
“AK State Parks Permit / GeocacheAlaska!”
- Cache Owner must physically visit the geocache once per calendar year and write an Owner Maintenance log both physically in the cache log and online on the cache listing



# GeocacheAlaska!'s Role

- Will pay the state permit fees using existing club funding sources
- Provide Education about the permit to Geocachers
- Maintain a list of State Parks caches and submit a compliance report to Alaska State Parks annually in December
- Report non-compliant caches using Owner Maint Required and elevate to Reviewer Attention if needed



# GeocacheAlaska! EduVents

- Provide Education to the geocaching community on the permit requirements
- Promote “Leave No Trace” and the CITO ideology to geocachers



# Updated Requests from Greatland Reviewer

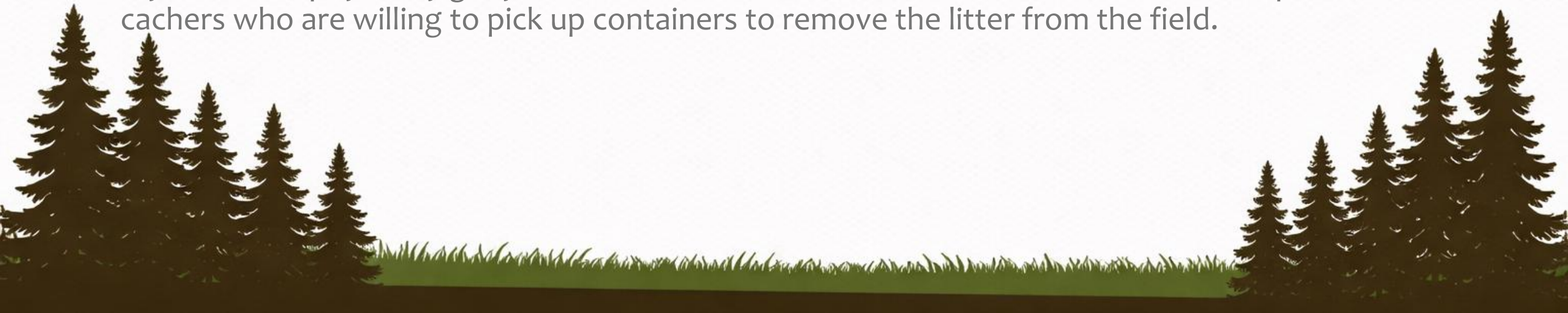
CO should disable your cache until you pick up the container, then archive it.

If you pick up a container for the CO, enter an “Owner Maint Request” log stating that the container has been removed. The CO must do the archive.

Only pick up containers with explicit permission from the CO!

If you change the container to comply with size requirements, edit the cache listing to show the new size. Then post an Owner Maint log. Make sure you wrote an OM log in the physical logbook when you replaced the cache to comply with the new permit.

If you cannot physically get your container, contact GeocacheAlaska! and we will help find other cachers who are willing to pick up containers to remove the litter from the field.



## LAS 35694 – Geocache Alaska - Additional Stipulations and Information (Three year permit)

### **Authorized Areas of Operation**

Geocaching operations within the following Alaska State Park Regions:

Mat-Su

Chugach State Park

Northern Area

Juneau/Southeast

Kenai/Valdez

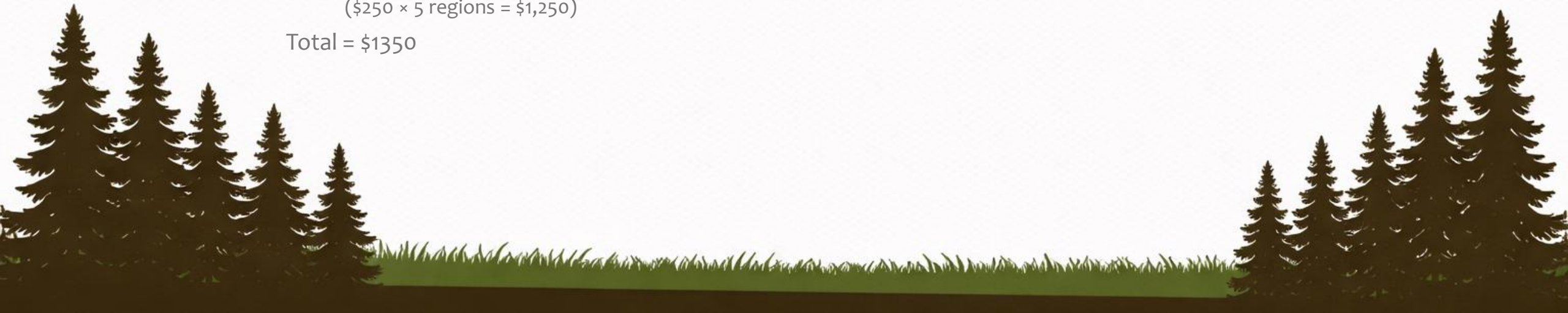
### **Fees**

\$100 non-refundable application fee

\$250 incompatible use fee per region

(\$250 × 5 regions = \$1,250)

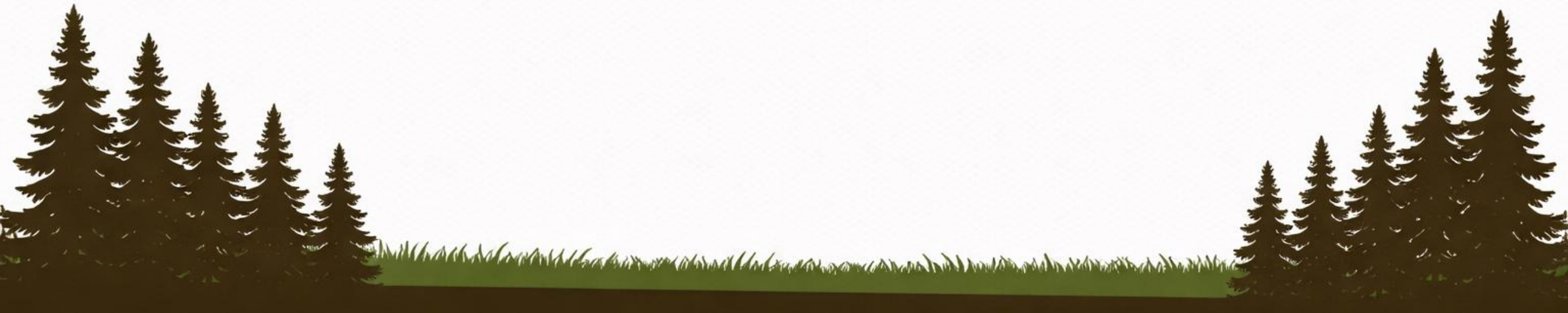
Total = \$1350



## **LAS 35694 – Geocache Alaska - Additional Stipulations and Information (Three year permit)**

### **Permit Term - January 1, 2026 – December 31, 2029**

A three-year permit is being issued due to the number of operational and compliance changes required, as outlined in the Special Stipulations below. An end-of-season report documenting progress toward compliance will be required by December 31, 2026, and will be used to inform future permit issuance. This end-of-season report is required annually.



## **LAS 35694 – Geocache Alaska - Additional Stipulations and Information (Three year permit)**

### Special Stipulations

#### **State Historic Parks**

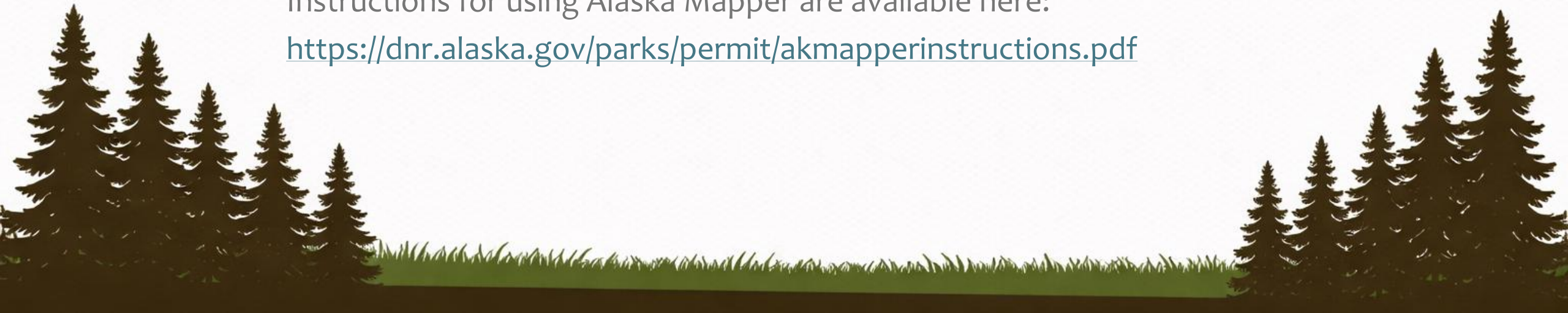
Caches are prohibited in all State Historic Parks (including, but not limited to, Totem Bight State Historical Park, Independence Mine State Historical Park, and Big Delta State Historical Park). Any caches located within a State Historic Park must be removed no later than December 31, 2026.

Alaska State Park boundaries can be viewed using the Alaska Mapper system:

<https://mapper.dnr.alaska.gov/map>

Instructions for using Alaska Mapper are available here:

<https://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/permit/akmapperinstructions.pdf>



## **LAS 35694 – Geocache Alaska - Additional Stipulations and Information (Three year permit)**

### **Designated Campgrounds**

Caches are prohibited in all designated Alaska State Park campgrounds. Any caches located within a designated campground must be removed no later than December 31, 2026.

### **Chugach State Park – Cache Size Restrictions**

Within Chugach State Park, only micro-sized caches (e.g., film canisters, bison tubes, preforms, or similar) are permitted. The permittee shall notify cache owners and ensure that any caches exceeding this size are removed or replaced with compliant micro-sized caches during the 2026 permit term.



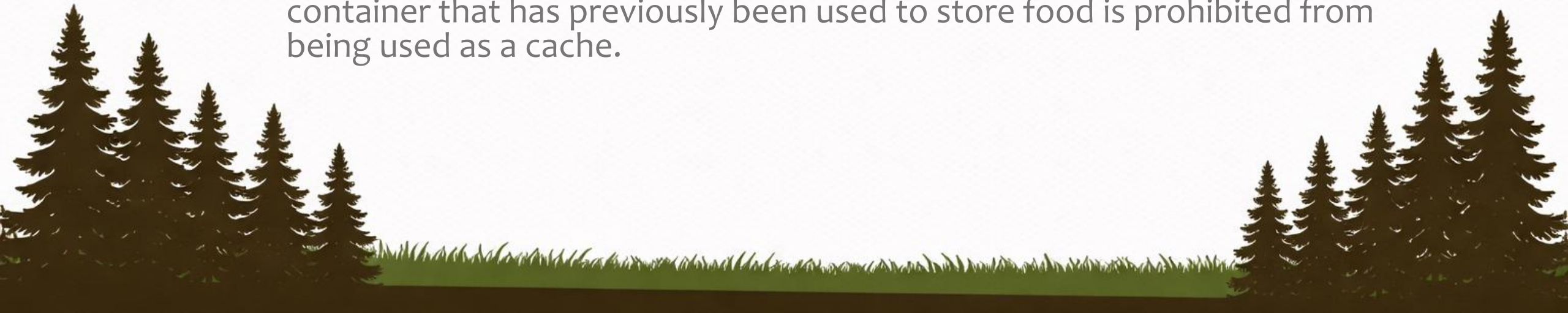
## **LAS 35694 – Geocache Alaska - Additional Stipulations and Information (Three year permit)**

### **Chugach State Park – Wilderness Zone**

Caches are not permitted within the Wilderness Zone of Chugach State Park. The permittee shall notify cache owners and ensure that any caches located within the Wilderness Zone are removed no later than December 31, 2026.

### **Food and Scented Items**

Food items, scented items, or items that may attract wildlife are prohibited from being placed in caches due to the potential to attract wildlife. Any container that has previously been used to store food is prohibited from being used as a cache.



## **LAS 35694 – Geocache Alaska - Additional Stipulations and Information (Three year permit)**

### **Placement on Facilities and Structures**

Caches are prohibited from being placed in, on, or tied to bear boxes, latrines, cabins, trees, picnic tables, or any other park facility or structure. Caches found in these locations may be removed and disposed of by Alaska State Parks staff.

### **Annual Cache Inspection**

All caches must be inspected annually by the cache owner to ensure they remain intact and free of litter. Caches that are damaged, deteriorated, or no longer intact must be removed.



## **LAS 35694 – Geocache Alaska - Additional Stipulations and Information (Three year permit)**

### **Education and Resource Protection**

The permittee (GeocacheAlaska! Inc.) shall provide clear education to cache owners and users

regarding proper cache placement, including requirements to avoid the creation of side or social trails and to minimize impacts to park resources. The permittee is responsible for all caches placed under this permit and shall ensure each cache location and placement method comply with all permit conditions and park rules. The permittee shall provide clear education to cache owners, and the permittee shall monitor cache locations as needed to prevent resource impacts and shall promptly relocate or remove any cache that results in, contributes to, or is reasonably likely to cause side/social trail formation or other resource damage.



## **LAS 35694 – Geocache Alaska - Additional Stipulations and Information (Three year permit)**

### **Cache Quantity Limit**

Caches are limited to a maximum of 500 total caches across all Alaska State Parks. This limit is intended to ensure manageability, resource protection, and consistency across State Park units.

### **Cache Size and Marking (General)**

Unless otherwise specified above, caches are limited to the size of an ammunition can or smaller. Caches shall be marked in permanent marker on log and/or container as: “AK State Parks Permit / GeocacheAlaska”. No permit number is required.

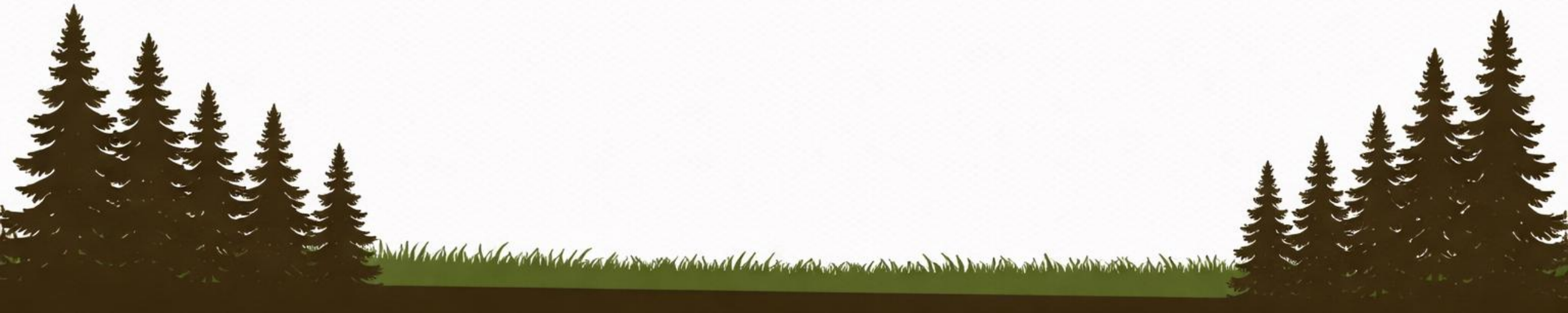


## LAS 35694 – Geocache Alaska - Additional Stipulations and Information (Three year permit)

### End of Season Report

An end-of-season report from GeocacheAlaska! Inc. is due no later than **December 31, 2026**. The report must include the following:

- a. A summary of which stipulations (1–10) were successfully addressed during the 2026 permit term.
- b. Identification of any stipulations that were not fully addressed, including an explanation of remaining issues and a plan for achieving compliance during a subsequent permit term.



## GeocacheAlaska! Inc Website

You can view the entire permit as well as additional information about it, notes from the Groundspeak volunteer reviewer for Alaska, and download a PDF copy of the permit from the Advocacy page of our website.

In addition, there are copies of every prior permit that GeocacheAlaska! Inc. has negotiated with various State Parks groups going all the way back to 2009.

[GCAK.org](http://GCAK.org)





# That's All Folks!

Presented by GeocacheAlaska! Inc.

Updated August 2026