

DNR gets tough on vehicles

Increased damage to state park lands by illegal use of off-road vehicles has led to a get-tough policy by the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation.

State Parks Director Neil Johannsen said that serious and lasting damage is being caused by vehicles, particularly in the high country of Chugach State Park near Anchorage.

Johannsen also announced that fines for illegal off-road use tripled on June 1.

"Anyone caught operating a vehicle in a closed area of a state park will now be subject to a \$150 fine for each offense. In addition, the vehicle may be impounded, and if resource damage has occurred, a court appearance is mandatory," he said.

State park rangers have been instructed to strictly enforce the law which closes most lands in the state park system to off-road use of vehicles. The law applies to three- and four-wheelers, motorcycles, bicycles, snow-machines, automobiles, motorized boats and aircraft.

There are areas open to off-road vehicles within some parks, and anyone interested may contact their local state park office for more information.



These off-road vehicles were impounded last month, and the drivers were fined by a state park ranger from the Chugach State Park near Anchorage. photo courtesy of DNR