

FOREST ORDER

Order No. 96-02-16

Pursuant to Title 36 Code of Federal Regulations 261.50(a), the following is prohibited on the lands administered by the Forest Service within the Chugach National Forest. These restrictions are in addition to those stated in Subpart A, Title 36 Code of Federal Regulations 261, and become effective immediately and will remain in effect until rescinded or revoked.

36 CFR 261.58 (t) : Possessing or transporting any tree, part of a tree, or other plant to be used as a Christmas tree or Christmas decoration.

Closed areas:

1. All of the area known as the Portage Valley, extending from the Seward Highway southeast to Portage Lake; and
2. the area known as Turnagain Pass, extending from the point where Bertha Creek crosses the Seward Highway, northeast to the National Forest boundary (approximately 4 1/2 miles), and within 1/2 mile of each side of the Highway.

Pursuant to 36 CFR 261.50 (e), the following persons are exempt from this order:

- (1) Any person with a specific Forest Service permit.

Signed at Anchorage, Alaska, this 3rd day of July, 1996.



LARRY L. HUDSON
Forest Supervisor
Chugach National Forest

Violation of this order is punishable by a fine of up to \$5,000.00 or imprisonment for not more than six (6) months or both. (16 U.S.C. 551).



Christmas Tree Harvest Policy

The timber free-use regulation for National Forests in Alaska authorize the harvesting of some special forest products. Alaska residents may harvest or remove forest products such as Christmas trees, boughs, cones, berries and wildlings (transplants), for personal use without a permit. It is illegal to sell, trade, or barter free-use products.

On the Kenai Peninsula, white spruce have traditionally been the popular choice as free-use Christmas trees. However, the spruce bark beetle continues to impact spruce forests throughout south central Alaska. Consequently the preservation of healthy young spruce trees has become an important goal for forest managers.

To help this effort, residents are urged to look to other sources for their Christmas trees (Christmas tree vendors, department stores, nurseries, etc). If you decide to harvest a free-use tree from the National Forest, please use the following guidelines to ensure the protection of other forest resources:

- 1) Select a tree that is at least 200 feet from roads and at least 450 feet from all developed sites (campgrounds, trails, trailheads, administrative facilities).
- 2) Select a tree that has a defect such as a broken terminal leader at the top, a forked top or one with multiple stems, a crooked stem, etc.
- 3) Select a tree that is growing too close to others. Ideal spacing of trees for growth is 10-12 feet between trees. By removing a competitor, you can help a healthy tree grow faster.
- 4) Select a tree that is the right size (the smaller the better) to reduce waste. Cut trees as close to the ground as possible. Leave no live limbs on the stump. Please.....No topping of trees.
- 5) Consider using a tree species other than white spruce, such as black spruce or hemlock.
- 6) The following areas are closed to Christmas tree harvesting:
 - Portage Valley
 - Turnagain Pass from Bertha Creek Campground road north to the National Forest boundary (approx 4.5 miles)

When you are ready to discard your tree, please take it to a recycling facility or burn it. Don't take it to the landfill. Thank you for conserving our natural resources. Enjoy your National Forest.

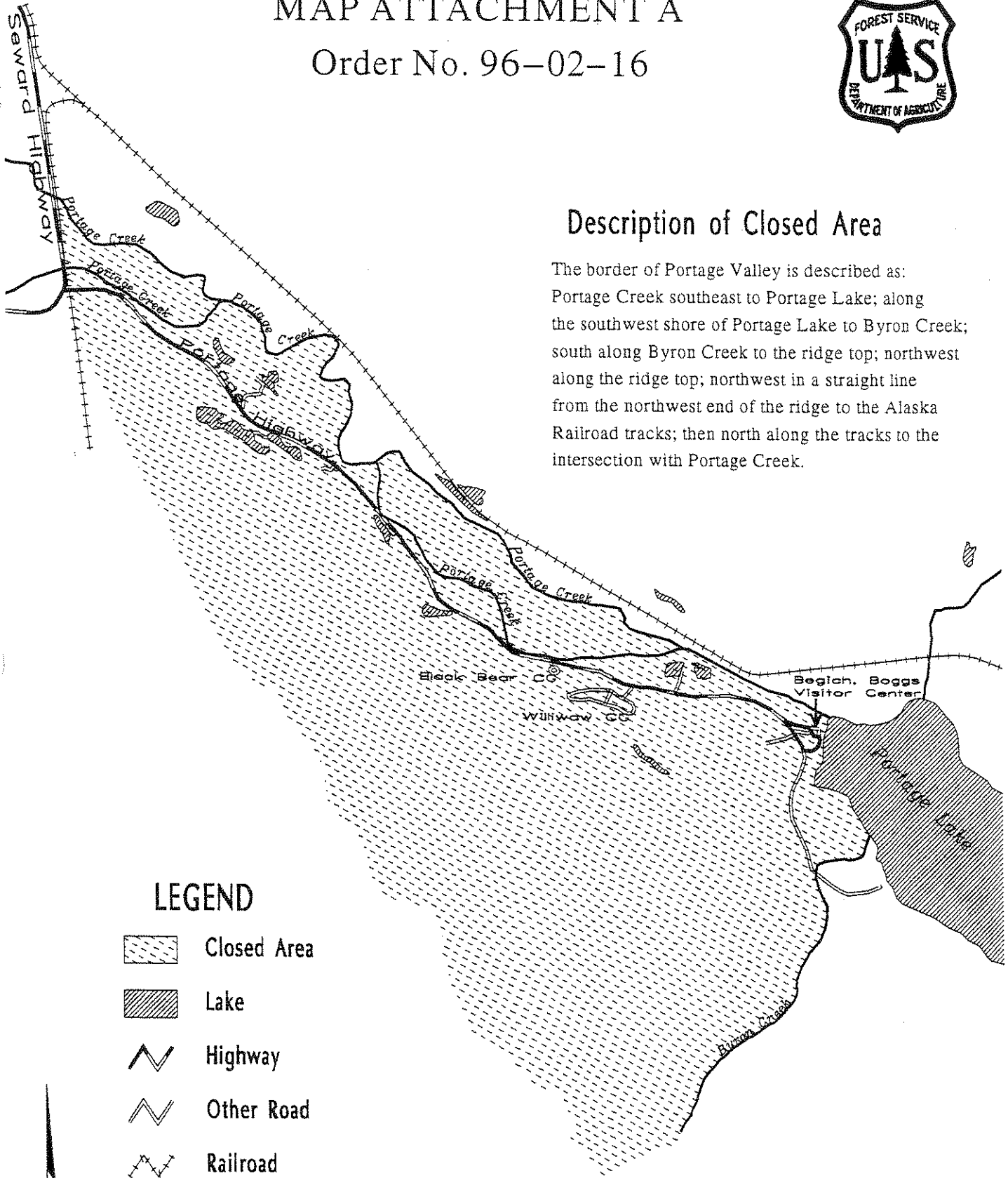
MAP ATTACHMENT A

Order No. 96-02-16









Description of Closed Area

The border of Portage Valley is described as:
Portage Creek southeast to Portage Lake; along the southwest shore of Portage Lake to Byron Creek; south along Byron Creek to the ridge top; northwest along the ridge top; northwest in a straight line from the northwest end of the ridge to the Alaska Railroad tracks; then north along the tracks to the intersection with Portage Creek.



LEGEND

-  Closed Area
-  Lake
-  Highway
-  Other Road
-  Railroad
-  Stream

0 0.5 1 1.5 2 MILES

610
LEI
LEI website

ORDER

Christmas Tree Cutting
Anchorage Ranger District
Chugach National Forest
Anchorage, Alaska

Pursuant to 36 CFR 261.50(a) and (b), the following act is prohibited within the areas described in this order:

36 CFR 261.53f--Area Closed to Protect Christmas Trees.


36 CFR 261.6a--Cutting any timber or tree except as authorized is prohibited.

The Portage Valley Closure is generally described as including the entire valley from Portage Lake to the Seward Highway. The Turnagain Pass Closure is generally described as the area from Bertha Creek, northward to a developed scenic view point on the West side of the highway, (unplowed in winter) at MP 69.9 of the Seward Highway.

Pursuant to 36 CFR 261.50(e), the following persons are exempt from the order:

1. Persons with a specific Forest Service permit;
2. Any Federal, State, or local officer or member of an organized rescue fire fighting force in the performance of an official duty.

Done at Anchorage, Alaska this 8th day of December, 1987.


 WILLIAM DU LAC
 Forest Supervisor
 Chugach National Forest

Violation of this prohibition is punishable by a fine of not more than \$5,000 or imprisonment for not more than six months or both (Title 16 USC Section 551), (Title 18 USC 1).