



Fact Sheet: Limited Non-Timber Forest Products Commercial Harvest Permit

Commercial harvesting of non-timber forest products (NTFP), up to certain quantities of harvest, are permitted through the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) through a Limited Non-timber Forest Products Commercial Harvest Permit, under 11 AAC 96.035. Non-timber forest products are generally defined as products derived from biological resources. Examples may include mushrooms, conks, chaga, boughs, cones, leaves, burls, landscaping transplants and seeds, roots, flowers, fruits, and berries. Not included are minerals, rocks, soil, water, animals, and animal parts.

Harvest of timber products such as saw logs, poles, house logs, firewood, and Christmas trees are permitted through your local Alaska Division of Forestry office. Species of aquatic plants that are growing in a marine aquatic or intertidal habitat are under the jurisdiction of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G).

Obtaining a NTFP permit over the counter allows DNR to better manage these natural resources to ensure a sustainable harvest for all Alaskans. The Alaska Non-timber Forest Products Harvest Manual provides direction to those wishing to harvest NTFPs, but it is not a substitute for experience and expertise. The manual provides harvest protocols to protect the environment and to maintain a sustainable harvest for future Alaskans. You may find this manual online through the Division of Mining, Land and Water (DMLW) NTFP webpage or from contacting your local Public Information Center.

When do I NOT need a permit to harvest NTFPs?

No permit is required to harvest reasonable quantities of NTFPs for personal use, or if you are harvesting on private land.

What is “Commercial Use”?

Commercial use is defined as harvesting NTFPs for the primary purpose of sale, resale, or use in a manufacturing process resulting in a product that will be sold or used for business activities.

Where can I harvest NTFPs?

On general state-owned lands in Alaska managed by the DMLW. This permit does not authorize harvest on private, state parks, University of Alaska, Mental Health Trust, Department of Transportation, Alaska Railroad, borough, or federal lands. To use the permit on state forest land such as the Tanana Valley State Forest, coordinate with the Division of Forestry Regional Forester.

Are there fees?

Because these resources belong to all of Alaska's citizens, fees are charged to ensure that the citizens share in the benefits of the commercial use of their resources. There is a \$160 application fee and per unit fees that apply if quantity of the harvest exceeds \$160 based on the fee schedule. The fee schedule for NTFPs may be found in the Limited Non-Timber Forest Products Commercial Harvest Permit, and under 11 AAC 05.150.

What to know before you go

1. Be sure that you can identify the product that you are harvesting.
2. Know how to collect and handle the product that you are harvesting. Improper collecting can damage the remaining plant parts and can result in unusable products.
3. No destruction or removal of an endangered, sensitive, or rare plant species listed in the University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Natural Heritage Program's Rare Vascular Plant Tracking List. A Plant Field Guide is located and available for download through their webpage.

4. Conform to the Alaska Historic Preservation Act, AS 41.35.200, which prohibits the appropriation, excavation, removal, injury, or destruction of any State-owned historic, prehistoric, or archaeological site without a permit from the commissioner.
5. Know the land ownership. Respect the land and others using it.
6. Harvest at least 50 yards from established roads, trails, campsites, or other public use areas.
7. Follow the Generally Allowed Uses requirements when harvesting.
8. Obtain and carry the proper permit.
9. Maintain required records, submit required end of harvest reports, and pay fees.

Regulations

The regulations governing the management of NTFPs are found at 11 AAC 05.150 Fees, 11 AAC 96.030 Application, 11 AAC 96.035 Commercial Harvest of NTFPs, and 11 AAC 96.250 Definitions.

Resources

The University of Alaska Cooperative Extension Service for identifying plants and other products and resources. The DNR published Alaska Non-Timber Forest Products Harvest Manual on the DMLW webpage <http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/ntfp/>. Your local DNR Public Information Centers (PIC).

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