

Fact Sheet

Title: Veteran's Programs & The Department of Natural Resources



Alaska Department of
**NATURAL
RESOURCES**

Division of Mining, Land & Water
December 2008

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) administers three benefits granted to eligible veterans by the Alaska State legislature. These benefits are outlined below.

Veteran's Land Discount

Under this program eligible veterans can receive a 25 percent discount on the purchase of residential/recreational land from the state. However, the Veteran's Discount can only be used once in an applicant's lifetime. **This discount cannot be used for purchase of agricultural, commercial, or industrial land.**

To be eligible, an individual must submit proof, acceptable to the department that the purchaser:

- Is 18 years of age or older at the date of sale;
- Has been a resident of the State of Alaska for a period of not less than one year immediately preceding the date of sale;
- And has:
 - a) been in the Alaska Territorial Guard for at least 90 days, unless service was shortened by a service connected disability, and has received an honorable discharge or general discharge under honorable terms, or
 - b) Served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces for at least 90 days unless tenure was shortened due to a service connected disability or due to receiving an early separation after a tour of duty overseas, and has received an honorable discharge or general discharge under honorable terms.

The Veteran's Land Discount cannot be applied to survey and platting costs, or other costs reimbursable to the state. Applications for the discount must be made at the time of purchase or before entering land sale contract.

Use of the Veteran's Land Discount is not permitted in conjunction with the Veteran's Land Sale Preference benefit.

Veteran's Land Sale Preference

In 1984, the legislature created the Subdivision and Homesite programs which are specifically excluded from the veteran's preference and made the Veteran's Land Discount unavailable on land acquired under the Veteran's Land Sale Preference Program. Since that time, veterans have found the program much less attractive.

When the department offers state land under the Veteran's Land Sale Preference, it will be sold at auction and well publicized in advance. Eligible veterans would have to meet all other sale requirements.

To be an eligible veteran, a person must have 90 days or more of active service in the armed forces of the United States and have been honorably discharged, or have been in the Alaska Territorial Guard for 90 days or more.

A person who purchases land at a Veteran's Preference Sale:

- a) May not sell or otherwise transfer ownership of the land within 5 years, except as determined by the Director, Division of Mining, Land & Water.
- b) Must submit proof within two years that residential development has begun, including proof of developed access and that improvements such as utility installation, a permanent foundation, or the construction of waste disposal and sanitary facilities have been started.

The Veteran's Land Sale Preference is for residential land only, and does not apply to the subdivision, homesite, and homestead programs.

Disabled Veteran's Annual Camping Pass

The legislature granted Alaska's disabled veterans the right to receive one Alaska State Park Camping Pass free of charge. The DAV Camping Pass, which is valid in all developed Alaska State Park campgrounds, is good for two years. Day use passes and boat launch passes are not included in this program.

Only Alaskan residents with a service-connected disability are eligible for the pass. An Alaska driver's license, Alaska State ID such as a voter's registration, Alaska hunting or fishing license can be used to prove residency. The individual's service-connected disability can be verified by the applicant producing one of the following items:

1. The Veterans Universal Access Identification card with the words "SERVICE CONNECTED" printed below the photo ID. This card is plastic and colored red, white, and blue. Other types of VA cards exist, but cannot be accepted as proof of disability. A veteran may obtain information on obtaining this card by calling the Veteran's Administration at 1-800-827-1000.
2. A current year letter from the U.S. Department of Veteran's Affairs, which states the person has a service-connected disability, and signed by the Veteran Services Officer. The percentage of disability on the letter does not influence qualifying.

If the qualified DAV's vehicle is sold, the decal must be removed. If the windshield is broken and must be replaced, the decal needs to be removed and placed on the new windshield. If the decal is damaged, the qualified veteran may bring in the remains of the decal and have it replaced for a \$10 charge. If no remains are presented and the DNR has record of the owner's previous issuance of the DAV decal, a one-time replacement decal may be purchased for \$100.

Effective June 1, 2000 a lifetime membership card from the "Disabled American Veterans" Organization **is not acceptable.**

For further information, please contact the Anchorage or Fairbanks Public Information Center:

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