



## Non-Commercial Recreation General Permit Frequently Asked Questions

1) **Question:** Why has this policy change been initiated?

**Answer:** This policy change will facilitate Trust land managers' stewardship of Trust land resources. The Trust Land Office is charged with responsibly managing and monetizing the Trust's approximately one million acres of land and other non-cash assets. Decisions approving use of Trust lands and resources are made solely in the interest of the Trust and its beneficiaries.

2) **Question:** Do the proposed changes to the TLO's land use policy require members of the public to get a permit from the Trust before going four-wheeling or snowmobiling on Trust lands for personal use?

**Answer:** Yes, the Non-Commercial Recreation General Permit allows personal use off-road motorized vehicles or ATVs with a curb weight up to 1,500 lbs, including snowmobiles and four-wheelers, on established roads or ATV trails. Off trail use may only occur during the winter months when there is sufficient snow depth in place so as not to cause ground disturbance. All commercial activity on Trust land requires written TLO permission.

3) **Question:** Do I need a General Permit for non-motorized recreational land use?

**Answer:** No. Day use of Trust lands for hiking, biking, fishing and other non-motorized activities does not require a general use permit.

4) **Question:** Does this Non-Commercial Recreation General Permit apply to public easements across Trust land?

**Answer:** If members of the public wish to use a public easement to cross Trust land they must verify the use type allowed on that easement prior to use and determine if a permit is necessary. The Trust honors all the legally established easements that lawfully encumber Trust land, whether they be R.S. 2477 or other access easements. The public will not have to get a general permit to continue to use legal easements as long as they stay on those easements.

5) **Question:** Where can I get information about the location of Trust land?

**Answer:** The Trust Land Office webpage has maps and information about Trust Land locations. You can access that here: <https://alaskamentalthrust.org/trust-land-office/land-sales/lands-and-maps/>

6) **Question:** Why do I have to get a permit from the TLO when I can use an ATV/snowmobile across general state land?

**Answer:** Trust land is not designated as general state land. Trust land, per the 1956 Mental Health Enabling Act and the subsequent 1994 settlement creating the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority was withdrawn from the public domain recognizing that the sole purpose of Trust lands is to generate revenue to serve Trust beneficiaries.

7) **Question:** I want to off-road in my 4x4 truck, is this allowed under the general permit?

**Answer:** No. Use of highway vehicles, larger off-road vehicles with a curb weight\* over 1,500 lbs, and off-road travel of construction and mining equipment requires an authorization from TLO. (\*Curb weight is the weight of a vehicle with a full tank of fuel and all fluids topped off, but with no one sitting inside or on the vehicle and no cargo loaded.)

8) **Question:** Can I loan my general permit to a friend for the weekend?

**Answer:** No. The general permit is non-transferable, and the permit holder must be present.

9) **Question:** I want to take my family on an ATV trip that crosses Trust land. Does each person in my group need a separate permit?

**Answer:** No, provided you (the permit holder) are accompanying your family and have your permit on your person. It is a requirement to have the physical permit with you while using Trust land.

10) **Question:** Do I need Non-Commercial Recreation General Permit for each parcel of Trust land I'd like to recreate on?

**Answer:** No. This permit will allow for statewide use of Trust land.

**11) Question:** How much is the new general use permit?

**Answer:**

- Non-Commercial Recreation (6 Months) \$250
- Non-Commercial Recreation (12 Months) \$500
- Non-Commercial / Personal Use Firewood harvest (12 Month) \$250
- Trapping (12 Months) \$250
- Commercial Harvest Non-Timber Forest Products (12 Months) \$250

**12) Question:** I want to snowmobile from January-April and then I want to snowmobile again November-December. Does this require me to get two permits?

**Answer:** No, the 6-month general permit does not have to be contiguous months.

For more information, you can contact the Trust Land Office at 907-269-8658, or [mhtlo@alaska.gov](mailto:mhtlo@alaska.gov), reference project # 2019-17.

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