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Press Release

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DEC Encourages Participation in First National Drug Collection Day of 2013

(JUNEAU, AK) – The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) encourages Alaskans to participate in the first National Drug Collection Day of the year on Saturday, April 27, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

National Drug Collection Day promotes safe collection and disposal of unwanted or expired prescription medication. Proper disposal reduces the chance of discarded drugs entering water bodies and causing harm to public health and the environment.

Alaskans have participated in several collection days over the past three years and have collected nearly 10,000 pounds of drugs since the biannual event began. Statewide totals include:

- 1,336 pounds in September 2010
- 1,604 pounds in April 2011
- 1,877 pounds in October 2011
- 2,722 pounds in April 2012
- 1,838 pounds in September 2012

“Safe disposal of drugs is an important, but often overlooked part of environmental protection,” said Environmental Program Manager, Doug Buteyn. “This event draws attention to the environmental concerns surrounding drugs in our environment and ensures that these materials are disposed of properly.”

The event is sponsored by the Drug Enforcement Administration of the U.S. Department of Justice. Drugs will be collected anonymously. Collection sites will be open across the state and more locations are added every day.

For a complete list of collection sites, visit the National Take Back Initiative website at: http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback/index.html.

For more information on safe disposal of drugs, visit DEC's website: http://dec.alaska.gov/eh/docs/sw/Prescription_&_Vet_Medicine_Disposal.pdf.

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