



For Immediate Release:

Monday, August 30, 2010

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ADEM and ADCNR Partnership Utilizes Scrap Tire Materials

MONTGOMERY – The Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) has established a partnership with the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR) to utilize recycled scrap tire material at various state parks in Alabama. The scrap tire material will be used as landscaping mulch and to provide a soft cushion underneath playground equipment.

Scrap tire material is generated through a variety of activities including the cleanup of illegal scrap tire dumps. The ADEM Scrap Tire Program oversees the cleanup of illegal scrap tire dumps in Alabama and is working with ADCNR, and other stakeholders, to implement these demonstration projects in an effort to highlight the many beneficial uses of recycled scrap tire materials. To date, the ADEM Scrap Tire Program has completed the removal of approximately 5 million passenger tire equivalents (scrap tires) from over 40 illegal scrap tire dumps across Alabama.

In addition, ADEM administers the Scrap Tire Marketing Program which is designed to enhance the recycling and reuse of scrap tires in Alabama. Currently, the majority of scrap tires that are recycled are utilized for the production of tire derived fuel. However, ADEM is working through the Scrap Tire Marketing Program to promote additional opportunities for the recycling/reuse of scrap tires. These efforts include highlighting demonstration projects, such as these at the Alabama State Parks, and ensuring government agencies, elected officials, and other stakeholders are aware of the funding opportunities and benefits of recycled scrap tires.

“The Department is very proud to be able to partner with the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and highlight the beneficial reuse of recycled scrap tire materials,” said ADEM Director Lance LeFleur. “The ability to leverage our resources, conserve landfill space, and reuse this material in an environmentally sound manner provides financial benefits, environmental benefits, and health benefits for all Alabama citizens.”

According to ADCNR Commissioner Barnett Lawley, the tire recycling program is a win-win situation for Alabama State Parks and the environment. “By reducing landfill waste, cleaning up tire dump sites and offsetting some maintenance costs at several state parks, this program addresses economic and environmental quality of life issues facing us all.” Lawley said. “Our state parks are proud to help showcase the importance of ADEM’s recycling efforts.”

ADEM and ADCNR will be working to implement demonstration projects at five parks including Lake Guntersville State Park (\$46,000), Desoto State Park (\$15,000), Joe Wheeler State Park (\$2,000), Roland Cooper State Park (\$16,000), and Buck’s Pocket State Park (\$5,000). The total cost of the demonstration projects is approximately \$85,000.

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