

2014 Annual Report to the Board of Forestry



Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Division of Habitat
March 2015

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS	i
LIST OF TABLES.....	ii
2014 OVERVIEW	1
Private and Municipal Land.....	1
Southeast Region	1
Southcentral Region.....	1
Interior Region.....	2
State Land.....	2
Southeast Region	2
Southcentral Region.....	2
Interior Region.....	2
Federal Land.....	2
Southeast Region	2
Southcentral Region.....	2
Interior Region.....	2
FOREST PRACTICES IMPLEMENTATION	3
Compliance and Effectiveness Monitoring.....	3
Road Condition Surveys	3
Region II & III Reforestation Science & Technical Committee	3
SPECIAL PROJECTS	3
Anadromous Waters Catalog.....	3
Tongass Forest Plan Implementation.....	3
Tongass Compliance and Effectiveness Monitoring	3
Tongass Fish Passage	3
BUDGET AND PERSONNEL	4
Budget	4
Personnel	4
Resignations.....	4
New Hires	4
PCN Transfer	4
STATEMENT OF FRPA EFFECTIVENESS.....	4
CALENDAR YEAR 2015.....	4
Workload Priorities.....	4
Outreach and Education.....	4
Anadromous Waters Cataloging.....	5
Budget	5
REFERENCE	5

LIST OF TABLES

Table	Page
Table 1.—FRPA activities on private and municipal land.	7
Table 2.—FRPA activities on State land.	8
Table 3.—Activities on federal land.	8

2014 OVERVIEW

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) Division of Habitat submits our 2014 annual report to the Board of Forestry. This report summarizes our January 1 – December 31, 2014 forestry related activities and informs the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (ADNR) Board of Forestry of Forest Resources and Practices Act (FRPA) effectiveness protecting the resources and habitats for which ADF&G has responsibility.

Alaska Statutes require ADF&G to manage, protect, maintain, improve, and extend the fish, game, and aquatic plant resources of the state in the interest of the economy and general well-being of the State (AS 16.05.020), to ensure the proper protection of anadromous fish habitat (AS 16.05.871), and to provide fish passage (AS 16.05.841).

On public lands, FRPA^a allows the maintenance of important fish and wildlife habitats. The state forester recognizes the expertise of ADF&G with regard to fish and wildlife habitat on all lands with fish habitat as the primary value in riparian areas.^b ADF&G helps identify and protect important wildlife habitats on private lands, and provides technical expertise for voluntary management techniques that minimize adverse effects on wildlife habitat.^c

PRIVATE AND MUNICIPAL LAND

Table 1 contains FRPA activity on private and municipal land.

Southeast Region

Craig staff reviewed and commented on five detailed plans of operation (DPOs), reviewed two requests for variations and four changes in operations, processed seven renewals, conducted five FRPA inspections, and issued six fish habitat permits for timber operations.

Douglas staff reviewed and commented on two DPOs, inspected 21 crossing structures on the Icy Bay Road system on Mental Health Trust Land where Sealaska Timber has purchased harvest rights, reviewed two variation requests and conducted two inspections over two field days at one University of Alaska owned timber operation, issued three fish habitat permits and submitted 53 Anadromous Waters Catalog updates in timber sale areas.

Southcentral Region

Anchorage staff reviewed and commented on six DPOs, a request for a variation and change in operations, conducted 15 FRPA and eight Fish Habitat Permit compliance inspections, issued nine fish habitat permits and submitted 95 Anadromous Waters Catalog updates in timber sale areas.

Kenai Peninsula staff reviewed and commented on two DPO's on municipal and private lands and conducted four FRPA inspections.

Palmer staff reviewed three DPOs, issued two fish habitat permits for winter ice bridges, and made field visits to classify two waterbodies on Matanuska Susitna Borough Land.

^a AS 41.17.060 (c)(7)

^b AS 41.17.098 (d)

^c AS 41.17.910 (b) and (c).

Interior Region

Fairbanks staff reviewed and commented on DPOs for the development of a log yard on Tozitna Corporation lands, a timber operation on Toghoththele Corporation lands, and two fuelwood harvests on Fairbanks North Star Borough lands.

STATE LAND

Table 2 contains FRPA activities on State land.

Southeast Region

Craig staff reviewed two preliminary best interest findings, the Southeast State Forest Management Plan, and conducted seven FRPA inspections.

Douglas staff reviewed and commented on a five-year forest management schedule, the Southeast State Forest Management plan, and submitted 16 updates to the Anadromous Waters Catalog.

Southcentral Region

No activity reported.

Interior Region

Fairbanks staff reviewed and commented on a five-year schedule of timber sales, six best interest findings and four forest land use plans (FLUPs) in the Division of Forestry's Fairbanks area, and one best interest finding and one FLUP in the Delta area. Staff issued two fish habitat permits for winter ice bridges for timber harvest access and reviewed an application for a stream crossing that did not require a permit. Staff reviewed requests for 11 personal use firewood sales and three house log sales on Tanana Valley State Forest and general state lands. Staff continues to coordinate with Fairbanks, Delta, Tok, and Valdez/Copper forestry area staff for water body classifications, road locations, and harvest unit layout and prescriptions.

FEDERAL LAND

Table 3 contains activities on federal land.

Southeast Region

Craig staff reviewed and commented on five National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents and issued 41 USFS concurrences.

Douglas staff reviewed and commented on four NEPA documents, participated in developing a state alternative for the Tongass National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, and issued 15 USFS concurrences for timber sales and restoration projects.

Southcentral Region

No activity reported.

Interior Region

No activity reported.

FOREST PRACTICES IMPLEMENTATION

COMPLIANCE AND EFFECTIVENESS MONITORING

Habitat staff participated with the Division of Forestry monitoring FRPA compliance and effectiveness. Of note, Fairbanks staff participated in a FRPA implementation workshop seeking public and operator input.

ROAD CONDITION SURVEYS

Kenai and Anchorage staff surveyed crossing structures on forest roads with Division of Forestry staff in the final year of a four-year project funded in part by the Alaska Sustainable Salmon Fund. In 2014, the surveys resulted in Kenai staff submitting eight and Anchorage staff submitting three updates to the Anadromous Waters Catalog.

REGION II & III REFORESTATION SCIENCE & TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Fairbanks staff and Division of Forestry staff co-chair the Region II & III Reforestation Science and Technical Committee, holding four committee meetings in 2014.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

ANADROMOUS WATERS CATALOG

Douglas staff documented anadromous water bodies in Icy Bay, Haines and Wrangell Island ahead of planned timber sales on private and state owned land. This work resulted in 55 additions and 14 corrections to the Anadromous Waters Catalog. Alaska Sustainable Salmon Funds for this work in the Southeast region have now expired.

Anchorage staff documented anadromous water bodies on Kodiak and Afognak islands on private land. The work, partially funded by the Alaska Sustainable Salmon Fund, resulted in 95 additions to the Anadromous Waters Catalog (Frost 2014).

TONGASS FOREST PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Southeast Region staff coordinated within ADF&G to assist the State Tongass Team in developing a forest plan amendment alternative for consideration in the US Forest Service NEPA process.

TONGASS COMPLIANCE AND EFFECTIVENESS MONITORING

Southeast Region staff are working within ADF&G to qualitatively assess the effectiveness of Tongass forest-wide standards and guidelines during project planning and implementation. We also participate in annual effectiveness monitoring in the field with USFS staff.

TONGASS FISH PASSAGE

The USFS and ADF&G continue to work together to evaluate fish passage problems across the Tongass National Forest and prioritize fish passage restoration projects.

BUDGET AND PERSONNEL

BUDGET

ADF&G funding for FRPA activities conducted during calendar year 2014 came from State general funds. The Division of Forestry provided partial funding for our work on the Region II and III reforestation science and technical committee. The Alaska Sustainable Salmon Fund provided partial funding to identify and nominate freshwater anadromous fish habitat to the Anadromous Waters Catalog in areas where we anticipated timber harvest.

PERSONNEL

Resignations

Ken Bouwens, Habitat Biologist III, Palmer
Jesse Coleman, Habitat Biologist II, Anchorage
Cindy Satterfield, Fish and Game Program Technician, Palmer

New Hires

Kim Williams, Fish and Game Program Technician, Palmer
Sarah Wilber, Habitat Biologist II, Palmer

PCN Transfer

Stormy Haught, Habitat Biologist III, Palmer

STATEMENT OF FRPA EFFECTIVENESS

ADF&G considers FRPA and its regulations effective for maintaining fish habitat within the classified surface water types during forestry related activities. The Division of Habitat works cooperatively with the Division of Forestry, the Department of Environmental Conservation, landowners and operators to implement FRPA to protect important fish habitat, water quality, and important wildlife habitat from the adverse effects of timber harvest activities.

CALENDAR YEAR 2015

WORKLOAD PRIORITIES

In addition to anadromous waters cataloging, fish habitat and special area permitting, special area planning, large projects of importance to the State, and research to aid in permitting decisions, FRPA participation remains a Division of Habitat workload priority.

Fairbanks staff will continue to work with other ADF&G divisions and the Division of Forestry reviewing increases in acreage and volumes proposed for fuelwood, biomass, and salvage harvest.

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

If requested, the Division of Habitat will participate in Division of Forestry sponsored training for agency staff and operators to describe fish habitat permitting under the Anadromous Fish and Fishway Acts, including strategies to avoid, minimize and mitigate impacts to fish and fish habitat.

ANADROMOUS WATERS CATALOGING

Anchorage staff will continue using Alaska Sustainable Salmon Funds to document anadromous water bodies on Afognak Island for inclusion in the Anadromous Waters Catalog and riparian protection under FRPA.

BUDGET

The Governor's FY 2016 endorsed budget would decrease the Division of Habitat's general funds by \$100K. Decreases over \$100K may limit our ability to participate in FRPA activities.

REFERENCE

Frost, W.D. 2014. Fish presence surveys in proposed timber harvest areas, Afognak and Kodiak Islands, 2012-2014. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Technical Report No. 14-12, Anchorage.

Table 1.–FRPA activities on private and municipal land.

Area	DPO	Renewals	Change in Operations	Variation Requests	Variation Inspections	Other FRPA inspections	FHPs issued	AWC updates
Southern Southeast	Mud Bay - Channel Enterprises Land	Port St. Nicholas - Klawock Henya Land	Crackerjack Creek- Hyak Mining Land	Kina Cove- Sealaska Land	Kina Cove- Sealaska Land	Mud Bay - Channel Enterprises Land	Control Lake - Mental Health Trust Land	
	Deer Bay - Sealaska Land	Grace Harbor- Sealaska Land	Kina Cove- Sealaska Land	Control Lake- MHT Land	Control Lake- MHT Land	Control Lake - MHT Land	Control Lake - MHT Land	
	Kina Cove - Sealaska Land	Ham Cove- Sealaska Land	Big Salt- Sealaska Land			Kina Cove - Sealaska Land	American Bay - Sealaska Land	
	Cleveland Peninsula - Sealaska Land	Kina Cove- Sealaska Land	Ham Cove- Sealaska Land			Big Salt - Sealaska Land	Coal Bay - Sealaska Land	
	Control Lake - Mental Health Trust Land	Cleveland Peninsula- Sealaska Land Jerauld Homestead- Sealaska Land Cleveland Peninsula- Sealaska Land				Coal Bay - Sealaska Land	Kina Cove - Sealaska Land Kina Cove - Sealaska Land	
Northern Southeast	Edna Bay - University Land			Wrangell Narrows East - University Land (2)	Wrangell Narrows East - University Land (2)			53
	Wrangell Narrows - University Land							
Kenai	Private parcel – Shafer					Port Graham to Windy Bay - Port Graham Corporation Lands and English Bay Corporation Land (2)		
	Kenai Peninsula Borough - Patrick Skuza					Dogfish Bay to Nanwalek - English Bay Corporation Land		
Anchorage	Endurance Timber Sale - Lesnoi, Inc Land					Endurance Timber Sale - Lesnoi Inc land (4)	Endurance Timber Sale - Lesnoi land (1)	95
	Koniag Timber Sale - Koniag Inc Lands (2)					Koniag Inc Timber Sale - Koniag Inc Lands (6)	Koniag Timber Sale- Koniag Inc Lands (2)	
	Koniag Inc - Ouzinkie Native Corp. (3)					900 Road 1/2 mile - Ouzinkie Native Corp. Land (5)	Koniag Inc -Ouzinkie Native Corp. (6)	
Fairbanks	NRO 2014-01 - Tozitna Corporation Lands							
	NRO 2014-03 - Toghothtele Corporation Lands							
	NRO 2014-02 and 05							
	Fuelwood - FNSB Lands (2)							

Table 2.–FRPA activities on State land.

Area	PBIFS	SFMP	FYSTS	FLUP	Personal Use Firewood	House log sales	FRPA Inspections	FHPs issued	AWC Updates
Southern Southeast	Coffman						Edna Bay		
	Edna Bay						Gravina Island South Gravina Island North Coffman Cove North Thorne Bay		
Northern Southeast		Southeast State Forest	Haines State Forest						16
Fairbanks			Tanana Valley SF	Mississippi Fire Salvage #1	Tanana Valley State Forest and general State Land (11)	Tanana Valley State Forest and general State Land (3)			
				Canyon Tower Spruce				Johnson Slough Salvage Timber Sale	
				Dunbars end birch				Nenana Spruce #2 Timber Sale	
				Mullen Slough West					
				3 Mile Cache Creek					

Table 3.–Activities on federal land.

Area	NEPA	Field Visits	Concurrences
Southern Southeast	Saddle Lakes DEIS - KMRD Kosciusco Island TS - TBRD Big Thorne TS - TBRD Dog Salmon Fish Pass - CRD Neets Bay Bear Viewing Platform - KMRD		212000 culvert - CRD 210000 culvert - CRD Sal Creek Trib culvert removal - TBRD Luck Lake 3030100 culvert - TBRD Cutthroat Creek (3) - TBRD MP117.023 RD 2000000 bridge - TBRD MP4.32RD2700000 bridge - TBRD MP34.47RD3000000 bridge - TBRD Angel Wings TS (1) - TBRD Big Thorne TS (24) - TBRD
Northern Southeast	Kruzof IRP EA – SRD Corner Bay and False Island Young Growth Project – SRD Tongass Forest Plan Amendment Mitkof Island Timber Sale EA - WRD	Kruzof IRP	False Island (5) – SRD Kruzof Island (3) – SRD Starrigaven Creek (1) – SRD Kuiu Retoration (6) - PRD

Email Cc:

Marty Welbourn Freeman, ADNR DOF, Anchorage
Jim Eleazer, ADNR DOF, Anchorage
Kevin Hanley, ADEC, Juneau
Anthony DeGange, ADF&G Habitat, Anchorage
Jenette Matlock, ADF&G Habitat, Juneau
Al Ott, ADF&G Habitat, Fairbanks
Jack Winters, ADF&G Habitat, Fairbanks
Jim Durst, ADF&G Habitat, Fairbanks
Mike Bethe, ADF&G Habitat, Palmer
Stormy Haught, ADF&G Habitat, Palmer
Mike Daigneault, ADF&G Habitat, Anchorage
Will Frost, ADF&G Habitat, Anchorage
Lee McKinley, ADF&G Habitat, Anchorage
Ginny Litchfield, ADF&G Habitat, Soldotna
Jackie Timothy, ADF&G Habitat, Douglas
Greg Albrecht, ADF&G Habitat, Douglas
Mark Minnillo, ADF&G Habitat, Craig