

Fact Sheet:

Alaska Board of Forestry

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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**August 2013
DIVISION OF FORESTRY**

Background and organization. The Board of Forestry is established under the Alaska Forest Resources and Practices Act (FRPA). The Board is designed to represent diverse interests, with representatives from commercial fishing, environmental, mining, and recreation organizations; an Alaska Native corporation, and a forest industry trade association, along with a non-governmental professional forester and a professional fish/wildlife biologist. The Board is chaired by the Alaska State Forester who is a non-voting member. The DNR Division of Forestry serves as staff to the Board, and the DEC Division of Water and ADF&G Division of Habitat provide technical staffing and information as needed.

Board rules aim for high degree of consensus – a Board action requires an affirmative vote by all but one of the voting members present. A quorum requires that all members less one be present.

The Board meets three times per year, with one public meeting in southeast, southcentral, and interior Alaska annually. Board meetings are open to the public, publicly noticed, and a public comment period is scheduled. Meeting minutes are posted on the DOF website.

Purpose. The Board

- Provides input to DNR Commissioner on FRPA regulations
- Provides a forum for representatives of affected interests to discuss and attempt to resolve forest practices issues and issues “relevant to the forest resources of the state”
- Surveys research needs related to forest practices, review research proposals, and promote projects to address research needs
- Coordinates FRPA monitoring – compliance monitoring and effectiveness monitoring
- Reviews annual reports from DOF, DEC, and ADF&G on FRPA effectiveness, needed changes, and research and monitoring needs; synthesizes this info and reports to the GO on these issues and FRPA status
- Identifies candidates for state forester and submit them to the Commissioner

Recent issues. Major issues addressed by the Board at recent meetings include:

- Forest practices monitoring regarding effects on fish habitat and water quality,
- Funding for forest practices implementation,
- Wood energy expansion,
- FRPA standards for landslides and public safety,
- State forest proposals, and
- National Forest management in Alaska.

For more information on the Board, or to be added to the mailing list for notification of Board meetings, contact Marty Freeman (marty.freeman@alaska.gov; 907-269-8467).