

Who are we?

We are the Alaska Division of Forestry (DOF). We are leaders in wildland fire management, forest management, forest practices, and cooperative forestry programs across the state. Our influence crosses ownership boundaries through leadership of all-risk incident management teams, management of federal timber resources under the Good Neighbor Authority, inventory of statewide timber resources, and up-to-date best management practices that apply to all commercial forests.

Why does our work matter?

Fire management and forest management play key roles in many of the most important economic, environmental, and social issues in Alaska. By managing wildland fire for multiple benefits; providing wood for energy, local construction, and export; assessing forest resources; and incorporating science into our forest practices standards, we help Alaska:

- Ensure public safety,
- Support a sustainable economy statewide, including in rural areas,
- Protect forest, fish, water, and air resources for a healthy environment, and
- Adapt to climate change.

What are the most important actions for the next two years?

The DOF is facing a loss of professional staff with deep expertise due to retirements and recent budget cuts. Recruiting experienced professionals to fill these positions is difficult. To maintain credibility, competence, and respect for DOF's leadership in forestry and fire management through this transition, we need to train and transfer knowledge to existing staff and recruit the best possible new employees from inside and outside Alaska, while maintaining high standards for fire suppression, and solidifying a long-term timber base.

Professional development and knowledge transfer

- Develop employees' professional skills through training, mentoring, fire assignments, field assignments, and other approaches.
- Develop systems to capture and transfer institutional knowledge, including process and procedures, statutory, regulatory, and administrative guidance, and project specifics.
- Strengthen working relationships between DOF and DMLW staff to bolster formal and informal systems for resolving operational issues.
- For DOF staff, establish fire program requirements and expectations for a range of assignments for fire suppression and training to develop depth in fire management specialties for in-area work and serving on incident management teams.
- Reach outside the Division and Department to train and qualify additional state and other government employees and cooperators for unit leader positions (COST, TIME, COMP/CLMS and PROC) in the Incident Management Team's Finance Section.

Fire management

- Contain 90% of fires in Full Management Option in state protection at 10 acres or less.
- Pass the Human Caused Wildfire Reduction Act.

Forest management

- Expand the State Forest system in coastal Alaska and the Susitna Valley. Expand and consolidate a coastal young growth state forest under AS 41.17. Include appropriate state lands in SSE, NSE, and Icy Bay, and if possible, add appropriate national forest lands under the GNA into the timber base for a combined allowable cut.