

Annual Report to the Board of Forestry: 2015 Forest Practices Act Effectiveness



Department of Natural Resources
Division of Forestry



February 4, 2016

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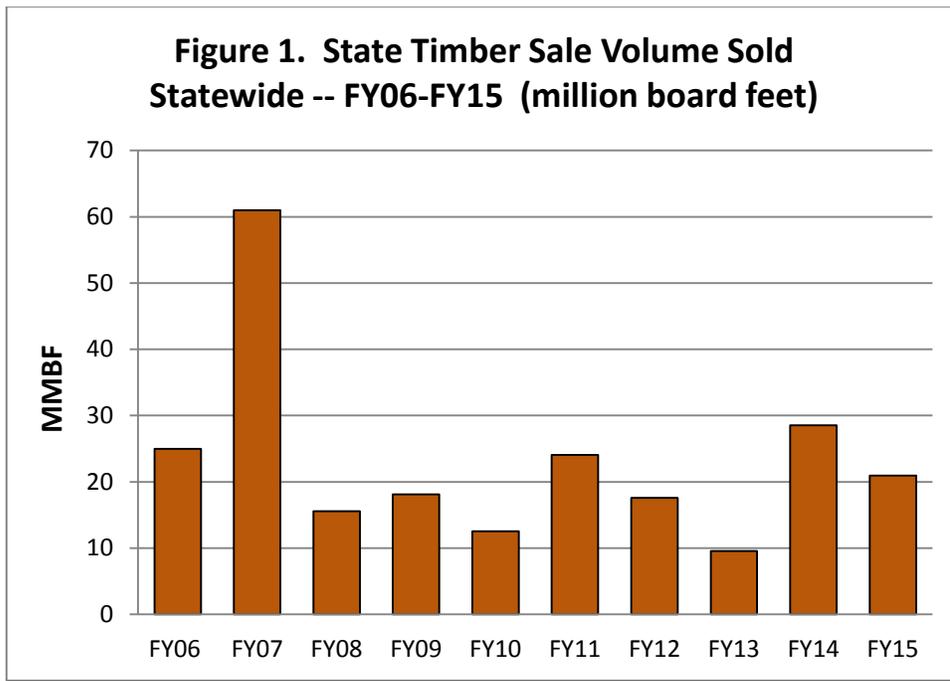
**DNR Division of Forestry
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I. OVERVIEW

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Division of Forestry (DOF) is pleased to submit its annual report on the Forest Resources and Practices Act (FRPA) and regulations to the Board of Forestry. DOF is the lead agency for implementation of the Forest Resources and Practices Act. Primary activities include coordinating interagency review of Detailed Plans of Operation (DPOs) for activities on private, municipal, and trust land; field inspections, implementation monitoring, and enforcement actions on these lands; and incorporating the standards of the Act and regulations into state timber sales. Forest practices related work on federal land is conducted by the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) Habitat Division based on their authorities for water quality and fish habitat protection.

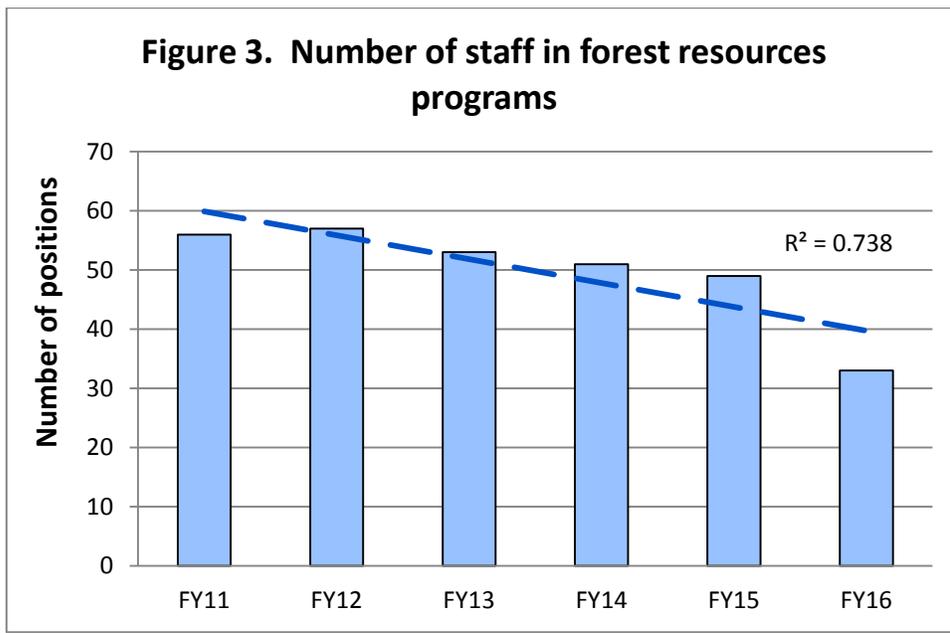
Notable activities and trends.

- Forest practices activity on private, municipal, and trust land remains at low levels for DPOs, acreage and road miles.
- In FY15, DOF sold 20.9 million board feet of timber to 26 Alaskan businesses (Figures 1 and 2, below).





- Landowners on Kodiak and Afognak islands eliminated their reforestation backlogs.
- DOF and the ADF&G Habitat Division completed a Science & Technical Committee process review of the FRPA reforestation standards.
- Over the past three years the DOF resources budget has lost nearly 40% of its state general fund appropriation and 13 permanent positions (Figure 3).



Overall, FRPA continues to be effective in protecting water quality and fish habitat, while providing for continued timber and fishing industry opportunities and DOF was able to sustain adequate field presence in 2015 to ensure that the Act is implemented properly.

II. FOREST PRACTICES IMPLEMENTATION ON PRIVATE, MUNICIPAL, AND TRUST LAND

A. Summary of forest practices activities

Notifications and inspections. In 2015, DOF received and reviewed 28 new harvest DPOs, 16 new reforestation/TSI DPOs, 5 new road work DPOs, 2 new voluntary plans of operations and 14 renewals for private, municipal, and state trust lands (see Appendix A, p.24 and Figure 4, p. 23).¹ New DPOs covered 5,110 acres and 45 miles of road. The Division conducted 53 inspections on private, municipal and trust land and 82 inspections on state timber sales.

Variations. The Southeast Area conducted five variance inspections. 266 variation trees were requested and 239 variation trees were approved. The Kenai-Kodiak Area conducted five variance inspections. 458 variation trees were requested and 450 variation trees were approved.

Enforcement. Enforcement actions are summarized in Appendix A (p. xx). The SE Area had one new violation committed by Sealaska Timber Corporation in June, 2015. DOF carried over one notice of violation case for harvesting in an anadromous estuarine area on Afognak Island. DOF anticipates the Hearing Officer resolving that case in 2016.

B. Monitoring

Compliance monitoring. During 2015, DOF conducted compliance monitoring on 100% of all FRPA and state timber sale inspections. A rating of 5 means the BMP was consistently and effectively implemented where applicable; a rating of 1 means the BMP was rarely implemented where applicable or was implemented ineffectively. Regions I and II continued to have excellent compliance, with more than 90% of all BMPs rated 4 or 5. Region III also rates >4 for over 90% of BMPs, which is an improvement over last year, due to better road maintenance, corrective action on previous issues and more favorable weather. Statewide, all BMPs had averages of >4, except for one, related to road drainage in Region II. In all regions, there were fewer inspections mainly due to less staffing.

Effectiveness Monitoring. DOF continues to work with agencies and affected interests to prioritize new effectiveness research, and seek funding for high priority projects. Funding for effectiveness research is exceedingly difficult to find and recent operating budget reductions have made it impossible for the DOF to come up with the 25% project level funding match commonly required.

¹ Note: FRPA data is reported on a calendar year basis because 11AAC95.220 requires Region I DPOs to be submitted by calendar year. Data on state forest management (e.g., state timber sale volumes) are reported by fiscal year to be consistent with state budget documents.

Table 1. CY15 Compliance Monitoring Scoresheet Counts, # of BMP Ratings, BMP Mean Scores, and overall BMP Implementation Percentage by Region and State

Region	# Score sheets		# BMP ratings	Mean score for all BMPs	Percentage of all BMPs rated ≥ 4
	State	Private/Other Public			
Region I	32	44	1176	4.8	97%
Region II	15	6	203	4.8	97%
Region III	35	3	539	4.5	94%
Total	82	53	1918	4.7	96%

During 2015, the DOF and the Aquatic Restoration & Research Institute (ARRI) were selected to receive a Mat-Su Salmon Partnership grant to resample three streams in the Mat-Su, which were pre-harvest sampled in 2006. The January 5, 2016 project report for work completed from August 30, 2015, through December 31, 2015 provided the following information.

- **Site Selection:** The project Quality Assurance Project Plan, previously approved by the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation was reviewed and updated for this project. Field data collection is occurring at three sites in the Willer-Kash Harvest Area (WK1, WK2, and Iron Creek). WK3, which was sampled previously, was proposed as a sampling site but was inaccessible without helicopter support. Through discussions with DNR/DOF a site was selected on Iron Creek downstream from the Willer-Kash Road bridge crossing.
- **Physical Habitat Characteristics:** All stream physical habitat characteristics were measured as provided for in the approved sampling plan. Stream water temperature and pressure were measured using HOBO water level loggers from late May or early June through October 2015. Discharge was measured in the field 5 to 6 times at each site beginning in May, and rating curves have been created to calculate discharge using water pressure. Wolman pebble counts, including percent embeddedness, were conducted on June 22 2015. Channel cross-section morphometry surveys were conducted on August 4 and 5 2015 and included stream gradient as well as bank width and area and average undercut. Large woody debris was counted and scored using a large woody debris index on July 20 and 22 2015. The percent of light reaching the stream surface has been assessed on 3 occasions within each sampling location.
- **Water Quality:** Two MS5 turbidity loggers measure turbidity every hour and are currently placed at Iron Creek and WK1 (reference site). Turbidity has been monitored at all three sites, but most consistently at these two locations above and below the stream crossing. In situ turbidity and true color measurements have been collected 5 or more times at each site, beginning May 26 2015. Field water quality measurements included dissolved oxygen, pH, specific conductivity, and temperature. These parameters have been measured 5-6 times at each site since data collection began. Sites are observed for presence of foam or hydrocarbons each time water chemistry is measured. Water samples for laboratory analysis were collected in the spring, summer, and fall and were analyzed for nutrients, and summer water samples were analyzed for nutrients, alkalinity, hardness, and dissolved organic carbon.

- **Biotic Characteristics:** All measures of the biotic community have been completed. Macroinvertebrates were collected from all three sampling locations during the spring. All samples have been sorted and identified and Alaska Stream Condition Index scores calculated. Juvenile salmon were sampled from each sampling location in July, 2015. All fish data have been entered into Excel spreadsheets and metrics of the fish community have been calculated. Benthic organic matter and stream periphyton were collected. Benthic organic matter samples have been processed for measures of ash-free dry mass. Periphyton samples were submitted to an analytical laboratory for analyses of chlorophyll-*a* and phaeophytin.
- **Project Reporting:** All project data have been entered into Excel spreadsheets. Data analyses have been completed and work is currently being conducted on the draft project report. The draft report is scheduled to be completed by January 30, 2016, and the final project report by March 30, 2016.

Road condition surveys (RCS). During 2015, DOF followed up on the 2012 Tyonek RCS to evaluate one forest road for closure, which would involve culvert removal at two crossings. An additional culvert was reviewed for replacement. One DOF engineer and an ADFG Habitat biologist were present and provided follow up contributions to a Sustainable Salmon Fund (SSF) grant proposal for repair and removal. The grant was subsequently approved for funding by the SSF. Design work and RFP development will begin in May 2016. Following bid award, the removals, road closure and culvert replacement work is planned to occur spring-summer 2017.

DOF, with ADFG assistance performed road condition surveys in the Mat-Su on the Willer-Kash and Zero Lake forest road systems, along with on the Knik-Atnu Corporation forest road. A survey of the Haines State Forest Road system was also performed, reviewing all bridges and culverts crossing anadromous streams.

C. Reforestation

Kenai-Kodiak Area FRPA reforestation compliance. All backlog reforestation units in Regions I and II were verified as being compliant in 2015 following the supplemental planting accomplished during the 2014 field season by Native Corporations, the Kenai Peninsula Borough, and the State (Table 2).

During the past several years landowners have favored planting immediately after harvest to ensure establishment, and prevent accumulating backlog acres. During the 2015 field season landowners planted approximately 500,000 seedlings in harvested units throughout Kodiak and Afognak Islands. Plantings of 500,000 seedlings or more are planned for upcoming field seasons.

Reforestation exemptions. Harvests that are significantly composed of dead or dying trees may request exemption from the FRPA reforestation requirements. DOF received no new requests for reforestation exemptions in 2015.

Table 2. Reforestation backlog in the Kenai-Kodiak Area by landowner

Landowner	Acres of backlog	Remarks
Afognak Island		
Afognak Native Corporation	00	Backlog planted during the 2014 field season. Stocking levels were verified during the 2015 field season. No remaining backlog.
Afognak Joint Venture (AJV)	00	Stocking levels were verified during 2014. No remaining backlog.
Koncor (Ouzinkie Native Corp./ Natives of Kodiak)	00	Backlog planted during the 2014 field season. Stocking levels were verified during the 2015 field season. No remaining backlog.
Kodiak Island		
Leisnoi, Incorporated	00	Backlog planted during the 2014 field season. Stocking levels were verified during the 2015 field season. No remaining backlog.
Kenai Peninsula		
State of Alaska (DNR)	00	60,000 seedlings were planted during the 2014 field season addressing backlog acres. Stocking levels were verified during the 2015 field season. No remaining backlog.

D. Training

Landowner/operator training. Training for landowners and operators is provided by DOF area office and regional office staff. Sessions vary from formal classroom presentations to more informal “tailgate” sessions conducted during field inspections. DOF also provides training in the form of DPO reviews and inspection reports that recommend ways to conduct operations to implement the BMPs. In 2015, DOF conducted 4 training sessions attended by a total of 10 people. DOF is incorporating information on compliance monitoring into its FRPA training. Training sessions were conducted in Northern Southeast (1) and Kenai-Kodiak (3).

III. STATE LAND ACTIVITY

A. Resource management activity on state land in 2015

During calendar year 2015, budget driven reorganization in the DOF resulted in some form of merging of all existing Areas except the Kenai-Kodiak Area.

Fairbanks & Delta Area. The Fairbanks Office offered nine (9) timber sales, of which six (6) sold amounting to 1,170,100 cubic feet or approximately 4,800,000 board feet. Seventy six active (76) timber sales were under contract with thirty four (34) operators. The Delta Office offered six (6)

timber sales, of which three (3) sold amounting to 620,400 cubic feet or approximately 2,544,000 board feet. Thirty two (32) active timber sales were under contract with eleven (11) operators.

Overall market demand for saw logs was up due to an increase in demand from Northland Wood Products. There was a slight decrease in demand for fuel and pulp wood due to low fuel oil prices in the Fairbanks and Delta Areas.

A draft combined Fairbanks-Delta Five Year Schedule of Timber Sales has been completed. This is the result of recent budget cuts and reorganization in DOF. There will be continued consolidation of duties and documents to maximize efficiencies. The schedules themselves are separated and maintain their geographic boundaries. In order to reflect the combined Fairbanks-Delta Area and synchronize the review process, they are both being presented in a single document.

The Fairbanks office identified for sale approximately 300 acres of flood killed timber and sold 53 acres from state lands roughly four miles west of Harding Lake in the Salcha area. The volume sold totals approximately 79,500 cubic feet of white spruce and balsam poplar. DOF sold the timber in a combination of competitive bid sales for commercial and personal use. In addition, personal use firewood harvest permits were made available to the public for designated areas adjacent to the commercial sales utilizing the Fairbanks Area Firewood Online Permitting System. These personal use harvest areas are accessed via a winter road that was constructed in March of 2015. And will be opened annually as ice thicknesses permit.

Personal use firewood demand in Fairbanks has decreased slightly with the low oil prices, but the Delta demand remains high. There were 492 permits sold for a total of 1,676 cords in Fairbanks. There were 83 permits sold for a total of 336 cords sold in Delta.

In January 2015 the Division of Forestry's Fairbanks and Northern Region staff met with University of Alaska (UA), Facilities and Land Management to discuss the layout, sale, and administration of timber on UA lands. As a result an RSA (Reimbursable Service Agreement) and MOA (Memorandum of Agreement) between the University and DOF were developed based on an example from Haines to layout and sell three (3) timber sales amounting to 428,300 cubic feet or approximately 1,756,000 board feet in the Fairbanks Area on UA lands.

Layout was completed on approximately 350 acres, which represents one summer season's worth of harvesting on a 3,500 acre biomass sale that was proposed under AS 38.05.123 "Negotiated Timber Sale for Value Added Processing". The contract has been prepared and DOF is ready to enter negotiations with Superior Pellets, Inc., but the company recently indicated they have enough wood under contract for two to three years, so they would like to delay signing the contract. The company's sales are down due to the lower price of heating fuel oil.

Several road work projects were completed in the Fairbanks Area in 2015. Approximately 10 miles of the Cache Creek Road was graded, brushed and ditched. Numerous culverts were cleaned out and reinstalled/replaced. 20 miles of the Standard Creek Road easement was brushed. A short stretch of the Two Rivers Road that is used by multiple users, including the local elementary school, residents, and loggers, was resurfaced. The initial engineering phase of the Standard Creek Road materials site has begun. This site will be the primary source for gravel and rock to maintain the 40-plus miles of the Standard Creek Road system.

Regeneration surveys were done on 175 acres of harvested areas throughout Fairbanks. Although no trees were planted on harvested sites in Delta or Fairbanks in 2015; 40,000 seedlings were ordered and approximately 100 acres will be planted in July of 2016. Reforestation continues to play a very important role in guaranteeing timber for the future.

There were 81 fires within Fairbanks Area Forestry jurisdiction burning 50,899. The Aggie Creek Fire was managed by two different Lower 48 Type 2 teams through its duration. The Anaconda Creek Fire and the West Fork Fire were managed by the Alaska Type 2 Team. The Rex Complex which consisted of the Kobe Fire, Fish Creek Fire, and June Creek Fire was managed by a Type 2 team from Oregon. The remaining fires were kept at the Type 4 and 5 levels.

There were 21 fires within Delta Area Forestry jurisdiction burning 23,124 acres. The Healy Lake Fire was the largest at 11,474 acres. The Michigan Creek Fire was 9,826 acres; both were managed by the Southern Type 2 team. The Goodpaster Valley Fire was managed by a Type 3 team.

White Mountain Initial Attack (IA) Type 2 crew is in its sixth year and spent 75 days on assignment in Alaska, 18 days in the lower 48, and 14 days on wildland urban interface (WUI) and prescribed fire projects.

2015 WUI Grant funded projects included, Gold Mine Trail, Little Chena #3, and Goldstream Alaska Subdivision. All were 100-foot wide shaded fuel breaks. Olnes East and Cripple Creek subdivision projects are in the development phase and cutting will begin in 2016. Also, test fires on the Gilmore Trail fuel break were conducted to evaluate fuel/duff moisture content and consumption. Older sites were monitored to evaluate the vegetative response to treatments, fuel loading, road/trail condition, and public use. The DOF entered into a Cooperative agreement with the Fairbanks North Star Borough to compare the 2006 fuels classification with LANDFIRE; and to utilize FlamMap to compare fire growth projections to recent wildfires using various fuels models, to assess burn probability reduction from fuel treatments, and to create a raster map showing burn probability and predicted flame length and fire size. DOF attended a pre-evacuation planning meeting hosted by the Fairbanks North Star Borough Emergency Operations to discuss, review, and update the roles and responsibilities of cooperating agencies and organizations during a public evacuation.

Tok & Copper River Area. The resource management program includes several important components: personal use firewood in a large rural region of the state with no access to natural gas for home heating; commercial and personal use salvage harvesting of fire-killed timber going back to the 2004 fire season; supporting an estimated 45 jobs in the harvesting and manufacturing of timber products; fuel for the renewable biomass projects of the eastern interior including the Tok School for heat and power; forest health work in and around the communities to accomplish important projects attempting to maintain a live and healthy forest; and hazardous forest fuel reduction projects in and around Tok.

Young's Timber is planning to begin pressed log and pellet manufacturing in Tok in 2016. Custom-milled, kiln-dried products are shipped through southcentral and interior Alaska from Alaska Logging and Milling of Dry Creek. An estimated 3.5 million dollars has been invested in the Upper Tanana timber industry during the last seven years. Other Tok office activities include:

- Five timber sales were sold from the Eagle Trail Salvage and Blowdown Sale. An easement agreement was signed with Tanacross Inc. Native Corporation to transport the harvested timber from the timber sale across their lands.
- USDA Forest Health grants targeted cleanup and disposal of spruce blowdown at Dry Creek to help prevent a beetle outbreak and reduce the threat of wildfire. The Tanana Chiefs IA Fire Crew, contractors and DOF staff worked on these projects. The community continued participation and support was incredible.
- Tok Forestry partnered with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Sitka research station to assess biomass potential for spruce, aspen, birch, and poplar. Results show that the local forests have far more biomass that could be used for energy than was previously assumed.
- Tok Forestry partnered with the Ruffed Grouse Society of Alaska and Alaska Department of Fish and Game to enhance habitat on 160 acres on state forest lands in the 1990 Tok River Fire. More work is planned for 2016.

The Valdez/Copper River office continues to offer sawlog sales, but firewood sales are the focus of forest management activity. Beetle-killed spruce is still in high demand for fuel, but most of the accessible beetle-killed spruce has been harvested. Available funds are being used to create new firewood opportunities. In 2015, the office plowed access into three local woodlots, making dry spruce readily available to local residents. Work continued with the Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, and US Forest Service to add more than 50 acres to the personal use wood cutting area in Cordova. At least 250 thousand board feet will be salvaged from airport property this year and made available for public consumption while saving the State logging costs.

Mat-Su & McGrath Area. The Anchorage/Mat-Su Area (14.6 million acres) absorbed the McGrath Area (85.4 million acres) in the middle of Alaska's second worst fire season. Not only did they have to contend with the Sockeye Fire which destroyed 55 homes and 44 other structures in the Mat-Su Borough but they also had to address over 100 fires scattered throughout Southwest Alaska.

Six purchasers have 10 active state timber sales on 826 acres in the Mat-Su. The Area is currently soliciting bids for a 113-acre timber sale in the Willer-Kash Block and has 4 timber sales totaling 198 acres available over the counter. There is some interest in a long term timber sale on Nunivak Bar south of McGrath. The Bar is a large 1,400 acre island in the Kuskokwim River which supported a small sawmill until a few years ago. The Area continues to issue personal use contracts for remote landowners west of the Susitna River and throughout the Southwest.

Over two miles of winter road in the Zero Lake Block was upgraded to a summer road. This project was sorely needed as the designed winter road was being used by mud-boggers and was creating a water quality problem. The work will ensure continued access for the timber sale program as well as personal use firewood.

On the forest practices front the village of Napaimute has contracted from the Kuskokwim Corporation 400 acres of timber to supply firewood to villages on the Lower Kuskokwim. The firewood is packaged in utility bags for easy transport by barge to villages along the river. This operation should continue for the next few years.

Kenai & Kodiak Area. Commercial timber sales are occurring on State, Native, and Borough lands in addition to land clearing for commercial and residential buildings and infrastructure. Even with recent warm winters and a coinciding drop in heating oil prices loggers aren't seeing much of a slow-down in the commercial firewood market. The office provides six separate public firewood cutting areas through the online permit system. Fewer permits are sold than the disappearing firewood indicates.

Southeast Area. Due to FY 16 budget cuts in the Southeast, the Division of Forestry combined the Southern Southeast Area and the Northern Southeast Area into the Southeast Area, effective July 1, 2015. The main office for the new Southeast Area is in Ketchikan, with satellite offices in Juneau and Haines. The Northern Southeast Area office in Haines is temporarily closed for four months in the winter time. Two Forester III positions and one Forester II position were eliminated and a Forester V position and a Forester II position were converted to seasonal positions. These budget cuts will have a long term affect on the Southeast Area's management of FRPA activities and State timber sales, but we did adjust to these budget cuts in 2015 without any reduction in Area performance. For 2015, we continued to collect separate data for the Northern and Southern Southeast Areas. We will collect data in this same manner for the immediate future, but will combine the data and report it as the Southeast Area.

FRPA activity on private and other state land occurred only in the old Southern Southeast Area. The only FRPA activity in the old Northern Southeast Area was on DNR-managed state land. The number of new DPOs increased 50% from 2014, without a noticeable increase in acres or road miles. Twenty-one DPOs were reviewed and 23 field inspections were conducted on private sector operations.

For State land managed by DNR, there was a 45% reduction of State timber sales sold and a 75% reduction of acres sold for 2015, compared to state timber sales in 2014. However, 2015 FRPA activity on state land in the Southeast was essentially the same as it was for 2014. DOF conducted 21 timber sale inspections in the old Southern Southeast Area and five inspections in the old Northern Southeast Area. We anticipate a dramatic increase in volume and acreage of state timber sold for CY 2016, but FRPA activity in 2016 will be about the same as 2014 and 2015 because timber harvesting on sales sold in CY 2016 probably won't begin until CY 2017.

In CY 2015 two timber sales were sold in the SSE Area for a total volume of 340 MBF and 9 timber sales were sold in the NSE Area for a total volume of 52 MBF. We also developed Best Interest Finding (BIF) decisions on three large timber sales in the Southeast. These sales were:

- Baby Brown Sale in Haines for a total estimated volume of 20 MMBF.
- Vallenar Bay Sale on Gravina Island in Ketchikan for a total estimated volume of 12 MMBF. This sale also includes the construction of 8.6 miles of new road and approximately one mile of road reconstruction to access the timber. Five million dollars were appropriated for the design and construction of the new road.
- Edna Bay Parley Sale on Kosciusko Island for a total estimated volume of 24 MMBF.

The Final Finding decisions on all three of these sales were appealed by multiple environmental groups, including Greenpeace. The Final Finding Decision for the Baby Brown Sale was affirmed by the Commissioner and the appeal was denied. The appellants did not pursue their appeal in Superior court. A draft timber sale contract and draft sale prospectus has been developed for a sale

bid date sometime in the late spring of 2016. The appeals for the Vallenar Bay Sale and the Edna Bay Parley Sale are still being reviewed by the Commissioner. We expect to solicit bids for the new road construction for the Vallenar Bay Sale immediately if the Commissioner affirms the Final Finding Decision. We hope to put the Vallenar Bay timber sale out to bid in 2017. If the Final Finding Decision for the Edna Bay Parley Sale is affirmed by the Commissioner then we expect to put that sale out to bid in 2016.

B. Forest management activity on state land in FY15

State timber sales. FY15 timber sale offerings on state land are summarized by area in Table 3 (p.12). In FY15, DOF sold 39 sales on 3,408 acres of land. Twenty-six different Alaskan businesses purchased 20.9 million board feet. The SSE Area continued to program its full annual allowable cut on a decadal basis however all of its large sales ended up, and remain, under appeal. Areas outside of SSE sought to satisfy local demand.

Table 3. FY15 Timber Sales Sold on State Land.

Note: some sales are offered in cords, green tons or cubic feet rather than board feet. For comparison in this chart, all volumes have been converted to board feet. Therefore, the total volumes are approximate.

Area	Total sales sold		
	# sales	Acres	Vol. (MBF)
SSE	3	315	5,887
NSE	9	21	284
Kenai-Kodiak	1	105	305
Mat-Su/SW	1	22	133
Coastal Total	14	463	6,609
Fairbanks	9	332	2,530
Delta	10	543	1,400
Tok	6	2,070	10,375
Copper River	0	0	0
Northern Total	25	2,945	14,305
State Total	39	3,408	20,947

Reforestation. Regeneration of harvested or naturally disturbed areas is an essential part of forest management on state land. To achieve a sustained yield of wood fiber from forestland, the Division collects cones for seed extraction, contracts for seedling production, and plants seedlings to improve reforestation. DOF also cooperates with research organizations to enhance reforestation and forest productivity in Alaska.

In 2015, DOF planted 5,300 seedlings on 10 acres, and scarified 20 acres for natural regeneration (see Table 4 below). Another 33 acres were pruned in the Haines State Forest.

Thinning and pruning. The pre-commercial thinning and pruning programs on the Haines State Forest have been focused on a 2,500 acre tract of forest initially harvested from the late 1960s through the mid-1970s. The thinning work began in 1993 and the pruning work began in 2000.

Table 4. Reforestation and Stand Improvement actions on state land in CY2015

Location	Acres planted	Acres scarified	Acres thinned	Acres pruned	Acres regeneration survey
Fairbanks	0	0	0	0	175
Delta	0	0	0	0	0
Tok	0		0	0	0
Valdez/Copper R	0	0	0	0	0
SSE	0	0	0	0	0
NSE	10	0	5	33	0
Kenai	0	20	0	0	0
Mat-Su	0	0	0	0	159
DOF Total	10	20	5	33	334

The pruning program has primarily treated portions of this tract that has received our thinning treatment with a small sample treatment applied to un-thinned acres. In 2015, one contractor completed 33 acres of pruning. With the completion of these contracts, 444 acres will have been pruned in this area of the Haines State Forest. A local contractor prunes the branches from the base of the tree to 17 feet up. The larger diameter dominant trees are selected for pruning at a density of about 75 to 90 trees per acre. Through pruning we hope to provide clear or knot free lumber over the remainder of the 120-year rotation age, which will provide higher future values. Pruning also has the added benefit of making the trees more resistant to bark beetle attacks.

Nearly 2000 acres have been pre-commercially thinned on the Haines State Forest since the program began. Thinning, by removing trees competing for sunlight, allows the remaining trees to continue the tremendous growth these stands are presently producing and will create larger trees in a shorter period. Thinning has the added benefit of maintaining browse species for moose. Additional prescriptions were implemented in 2002 in an attempt to maintain release for the dominant trees while retaining some of the smaller trees in close proximity to the crop tree. This silviculture concept intends to provide for natural pruning as well as structural diversity as the stand develops which can be beneficial to the ecology of the stand.

Conversely to the managed areas in this twenty-five hundred acre regenerating area of the Haines State Forest, several areas were identified that are not being thinned for the purpose of comparison and to provide for the natural successional development of those acres. The stands where most of the thinning has occurred average 60 to 65 feet tall with 10 to 13 inch diameters. Recent sampling has identified some stands that were thinned in the first few years of the program producing trees greater than 18 inches in diameter and 70 to 80 feet in height in a component that averages 15 trees per acre. These stands have been the focus of the pruning program over the last six seasons.

Roads Office. Roads office work in CY15 is summarized in Table 5, below.

Table 5. Roads Office Projects 2015		
Project Title	Project Description	Area
Develop DOF Forest Road & Bridge Standards	Project develops DOF road construction standards into an AASHTO based standard	Statewide
DOF Bridge Inventory	Centralized information on DOF managed bridges. Identified deficiencies and costs of ownership.	Statewide
Bostwick Road Inventory	Road Condition Survey of 7.1 Miles of forest road	Ketchikan
Modular Bridge Repair	80 FT. modular bridge repair	Ketchikan
Vallenar Bay Road	Project designed and permitted 8.6 miles of new road and 1.1 miles of reconstruction. Project bid ready, pending administrative appeal to ADNR Commissioner.	Ketchikan
Edna Bay Access	Design, Permit and construct approximately one mile of forest road, sortyard and log transfer facility.	Ketchikan
Hollis Ferry Road	Design, permit and upgrade 3/4 mile of single lane residential road to a double lane forest road. Currently at 75% design. Project spring 2016 construction.	Ketchikan
Repair Tanana Valley State Forest Roads	Two projects are currently underway for a combined approximate \$470K: 1: Cache Creek Road Repair-Graded approximately 10 miles of road and replaced 10 culverts. Right of way was cleared of brush and ditches established. 2. Repair Standard Creek Road- This project develops a new material site and repairs 7 locations that prevented summer time log hauling.	Fairbanks
Zero Lake Rd Upgrade	Project provides needed upgrade to road for continuous all season access	Mat-Su
Zero Lake ROW Brushing	Brushed 3 miles of the Zero Lake Rd	Mat-Su
Replace Fortune Creek Bridge	Bridge is currently closed due to load limitations. Design is complete for replacement by construction procurement with a modular steel bridge.	Fairbanks
Replace Cache Creek Bridge	ADOT identified scour critical 36' bridge proposed for replacement. A design study review concluded that the bridge is still serviceable and of little risk. No further design was done. No construction is planned.	Fairbanks

Forest Inventory. Calendar year 2015 continued as a busy year for forest inventory on state lands and cooperative efforts with the USFS. The forest inventory final report for state lands on the Middle Yukon River was completed. This inventory will help pave the way for the Division of Forestry to begin selling and managing timber in the Galena area. Currently the village is in the design and construction process for a chip-fired boiler to heat the live-in Galena Student Learning Academy. This biomass facility will utilize timber from state and village corporation lands. A second project on state lands was initiated in the McGrath area where field work was completed on over 100,000 acres. This Kuskokwim River inventory will provide data in support of wood harvesting activities that send fuelwood and sawn products as far downriver as Bethel and other riverside communities.

The Division of Forestry began a pilot Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) project that will install permanent sample plots throughout Southcentral and Interior Alaska. The state has partnered with the USFS Pacific Northwest Forestry and Range Experiment Station in this effort. A test project on 30-year-old legacy plots was conducted to ground truth and refine protocols as it begins to ramp up for a broader effort in 2016. In future years the state will be installing some 300 FIA plots per year in Southcentral and Interior locations. Alaska is the only state that does not have a complete and comprehensive permanent sample plot installation. A second partnership between the state and U.S. Forest Service will inventory of young-growth acreage within the Tongass National Forest. Planning for a 2016 field effort has begun. This project will help determine the viability of the Forest Service's effort to transition from old-growth to young-growth harvesting.

Beach Log Salvage & Log Brands. The Ketchikan office issued 3 Beach Log Salvage permits, registered seven new log brands and renewed seven existing log brands.

C. Land Use Planning.

Southeast State Forest Management Plan. The Board of Forestry and several state agencies reviewed the Agency Review Draft of the Southeast State Forest Management Plan in 2014. After incorporating agency and Board input, the Division of Forestry released the Public Review Draft of the forest plan for review and comment during March and April of 2015. Eleven people provided oral testimony at five public hearings held in southeast Alaska communities, and thirty written comments on the draft plan were received. The revised, final Southeast State Forest Management Plan will be submitted to the Commissioner of Natural Resources for adoption in early 2016.

Tanana Basin Area Plan. The Division of Mining, Land and Water began revising the Tanana Basin Area Plan (TBAP) several years ago. DMLW divided the 14.5 million acre TBAP area into two smaller planning units - the Eastern Tanana Area Plan (ETAP) and the Yukon Tanana Area Plan (YTAP).

Eastern Tanana Area Plan. The Commissioner of DNR adopted the Eastern Tanana Area Plan on August 28, 2015. This area plan identifies Forestry classified lands that are appropriate for adding to the Tanana Valley State Forest. Adding lands to the state forest will require legislative action.

Yukon Tanana Area Plan. The Commissioner of DNR adopted the Yukon Tanana Area Plan on January 3, 2014. The YTAP, like the ETAP, identified Forestry classified lands that are appropriate for potential inclusion to the Tanana Valley State Forest.

Susitna Matanuska Area Plan. The Commissioner of DNR adopted the Susitna Matanuska Area Plan in 2011 for managing the area's nine million acres of state land. The plan designates about 700,000 acres of these lands for Forestry and recommends consideration of legislative designation of a Susitna State Forest for the forest classified lands. This area plan calls for the development of a separate Forest Resources Management Plan for the forested lands, to be developed jointly by the Division of Forestry and the Division of Mining, Land and Water. Planning for the Forest Resources Management Plan will begin in 2016.

Division of Forestry staff reviews and comments on a wide range of other state and federal agency land-use plans to help ensure the Division and the public has continued access to forest resources on state lands, and the salvage of timber takes place when forested land is cleared for right-of-ways or other purposes.

IV. FEDERAL LAND ACTIVITY

There were several changes in leadership on the Tongass National Forest in early 2015. In February, Deputy Forest Supervisor Patricia O'Connor left the Tongass for a position with the USFS in Colorado. In April, Forrest Cole retired from the Forest Supervisor position he had held for over a decade. In May, Earl Stewart assumed the leadership role for the Tongass and Tawnya Brummett was named Deputy Forest Supervisor.

DOF continued its involvement with the US Forest Service in the implementation of the Tongass National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan during 2015; although in a greatly reduced manner when compared to the previous eight years due to reductions in workforce and funding.

During 2015 a Landowners Group was formed to address ways to improve overall forest management within southeast. Members of the group include the Division of Forestry, the Alaska Mental Health Trust Land Office, the Tongass National Forest, USFS Region 10, Sealaska and the University of Alaska Lands Office. Currently the group is working on an agreement to share infrastructure without charging fees for usage.

The State Forester, Chris Maisch, was a member of the Tongass Advisory Committee (TAC) which was appointed by the USDA Secretary to advise the USFS on the Tongass Forest Plan revision process, particularly the transition from old growth to young growth management. The TAC provided the USFS will draft recommendations on how to transition from a timber sale program based on old growth timber harvest to one predominately composed of young growth in May 2015. Their recommendations were used by the USFS during the development of alternatives for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Tongass Land and Resource Management Plan Amendment. The Draft EIS for the Plan Amendment is currently out for public review. The USFS timber volume offered for sale in federal fiscal year (FFY) 2015 was 43 million board feet (see Table 6, p. 17).

Table 6. Tongass National Forest Timber Sale Volume (MMBF) – Federal Fiscal Year 2001-15. TTRA Volume is the Tongass Timber Reform Act “seek to meet” market demand estimate.

Federal Fiscal Year (Oct. 1- Sept. 30)	TTRA Volume Offered	Timber volume offered	Timber volume sold	Timber volume harvested	Timber volume under contract
2001	119	68	50	48	283
2002	110	57	24	34	296
2003	151	89	36	51	193
2004	153	73	87	46	149
2005	143	110	65	50	104
2006	143	24	85	43	111
2007	116	32	30	19	114
2008	99	42	5	28	97
2009	146	36	10	28	84
2010	173	46	46	36	98
2011	110	44	38	33	105
2012	127	53	53	21	150
2013	143	115	16	36	109.9
2014	142	105	105	39	154.5
2015	not reported	43	48	57	118.2
Average	133.9	62.4	46.5	37.9	143.1

V. SPECIAL PROJECTS

A. DNR Southeast Timber Jobs Initiative.

In 2015, DNR actions included:

- Continuing work on state forest road and bridge design, construction, and maintenance statewide through the DOF roads office.
- Working with the Governor’s Office, the National Association of State Foresters (NASF), and others to seek changes to management of the Tongass National Forest and other federal forest lands.
- Participating on The Working Forest Group to apply working forest concepts to Alaska’s state and federal forest. The effort emphasizes a “triple bottom line” that addresses economic, community, and environmental vitality.
- Participating in the Tongass Advisory Committee to advise the US Forest Service on amending the Tongass Plan.
- Continuing participation in the State Tongass Team to facilitate federal timber sales (see also section on Federal Land Activity, above).

B. Regulatory Changes.

Negotiated timber sale statutes. SB32/HB87 was introduced in the legislature and remains active for the 2016 session. The bill would expand DOF authorities for negotiated timber sales under AS

38.05.118 by removing a requirement for excess annual cut. The annual cut requirement limits the opportunity for negotiated sales in Southeast where the allowable cut is fully used. The proposed changes were endorsed by the Alaska Timber Jobs Task Force and the Board of Forestry. The bill passed the Senate and is pending in the House with two committee referrals. It wasn't scheduled for a House hearing in 2015 because of concerns from some Tok constituents. DOF has worked with constituents and legislators in the interim.

SB32/HB87 would

- Clarify that the DNR commissioner may determine which applicable sale method is in the best interest of the state for each timber sale (AS 38.05.110).
- Allow DNR to offer negotiated timber sales for up to 25 years statewide. Currently, such sales are restricted to areas of high unemployment, excess manufacturing capacity, and excess allowable cut, which limit them to remote areas.
- Specify that negotiated sales must comply with the requirements for Forest Land Use Plans (AS 38.05.112) and Five-year Schedules of Timber Sales (AS 38.05.113). This ensures that large negotiated sales are developed with adequate notice to the industry and general public, and necessary site-specific design.
- Clarify that DNR may negotiate sales to wood fiber users, including biomass energy producers, in addition to wood product manufacturers.

Timber and material sale regulations. The DNR Division of Mining, Land, and Water (DMLW) is drafting changes to the material sale regulations. Currently those regulations are in 11 AAC 71 and are combined with the regulations for timber sales. The proposed changes would remove the material sale regulations and establish them in a new section. At DOF's request, the proposed changes include an amendment to 11 AAC 71.045(e) to extend the maximum duration of small negotiated sales under AS38.05.115 from one year to two years. The proposed amendments would also make changes in 11 AAC 71 to conform to current regulation drafting standards. DMLW is still working on new sections for the material sale regulations; there is no date scheduled for public review yet.

FRPA reforestation regulations. In April 2014, DOF and the ADF&G Habitat Division convened a Science & Technical Committee (S&TC) to review and recommend revisions to the FRPA reforestation standards in southcentral and interior Alaska (Regions II and III). The S&TC was charged with compiling and synthesizing relevant published research and agency reports, reviewing the existing standards, and recommending changes to the Board.

The S&TC completed its work in November, 2015. The process has included 11 meetings of the S&TC, including 16 overview presentations, development of an annotated bibliography with nearly 500 relevant references, and outreach to a group of technical experts and the broader public, including 375 organizations, businesses, agencies, and individuals.

Key concepts from the literature reviews include:

- Seedling recruitment continues over a longer period than previously documented.
- Factors predicting likely natural regeneration success include seed bed conditions, minimal soil disturbance in areas of vegetative reproduction, seed source availability, low risk of vegetative competition, low herbivory pressure, absence of spruce beetle infestation, and absence of Tomentosus root rot.

- Patchiness occurs in natural stands and some patchiness is beneficial for wildlife.
- Seed from sites 5-10 degrees south of planting sites are successful; seed source diversity provides resilience for climate change.
- Harvest and site preparation planning can increase positive and decrease negative interactions between wildlife and regeneration; keeping some coarse woody debris/snags is key factor in managing wildlife interactions.
- Climate change can affect regeneration success; effects depend on site-specific as well as regional conditions.
- Invasive species not impeding regeneration yet; prevention is key; imported firewood and wood pallets are known vectors for introducing invasive species.
- Flexibility will be needed to adapt to climate change.

The S&TC did not recommend any changes to the Forest Resources and Practices Act. Potential changes to FRPA regulations include:

- 11 AAC 95.220(a)(10) – DPO information regarding natural regeneration
- 11 AAC 95.235 and 11 AAC 95.375(c) – regarding variations from reforestation standards
- 11 AAC 95.375(d)(4) – reducing the stocking distribution standard to 80% in light of continued recruitment, natural patchiness, and benefits of patchiness for wildlife
- 11 AAC 95.375(f) – allowing for mixing local seed with seed from further south in keeping with results of provenance trials.
- 11 AAC 95.375(g) – expanding the methods that can be used to document where stands are significantly composed of dead and dying trees.
- 11 AAC 95.375 – adding a subsection allowing a 12-year period for natural regeneration in Regions II and III where site conditions indicate that natural regeneration will be likely to be successful
- 11 AAC 95.380 – clarifying that section (a) applies to operations that will rely on natural regeneration from seed rather than vegetative reproduction.
- 11 AAC 95.385(a) – requiring a regeneration survey and report after five years if a 12-year period is allowed for natural regeneration.
- 11 AAC 95.900 – amending the definitions for “(9) commercial operation” and “(10) commercial timber harvest” to include thresholds for operations that are not based on sawtimber (board foot) measurements.

The S&TC consensus points also identify research needs regarding silvics of Region II-III species, adaptation to climate change, and interactions between wildlife and reforestation.

At the request of the Board, the S&TC reviewed the consensus points and identified those that they believe could apply to reforestation in the Kodiak-Afognak area of Region I. However, the S&TC process was focused on Regions II and III and did not do the same in-depth review of the literature, management results, and reforestation standards for Kodiak.

VI. BUDGET AND STAFFING

A. FY15 total funding

FY16 funding for core forest practices work totals 2 full-time equivalents spread over 13 positions. The positions include field staff, clerical support, and program management. The 13 positions coordinate forest practices work among the resource agencies, review notifications, conduct field inspections and enforcement actions, perform compliance monitoring, provide training, and lead review and development of FRPA standards and regulations. These same individuals conduct FRPA compliance monitoring on state timber sales. All FY16 funding for core forest practices work was from the state General Fund.

B. Anticipated Funding Needs and New Initiatives

Projected 2016 FRPA activity. In 2015 Sealaska received their final conveyance of land entitlement from the federal government, which included 68,750 timbered acres. This new acreage will be included into their existing harvestable acres and will be managed on a sustained yield basis in the future. Sealaska also purchased a 75 million board foot timber sale from Mental Health trust, located at Icy Bay, north of Yakutat. They plan to begin infrastructure development and timber harvest layout in 2016, with initial harvest operations set for 2017. Due to these operational increases for Sealaska we expect FRPA activity on private and other state land in the southeast to increase dramatically for the next few years.

The continuing demand for sawlog and firewood sales throughout the state is likely to increase the need for FRPA inspections on State timber sales in 2016.

FY17 anticipated funding. The Governor's FY17 budget includes a 3% reduction to the DOF operating budget and no capital improvement projects. Even with a 3% reduction DOF can maintain adequate staffing for FRPA implementation due to the relatively light FRPA workload on private lands.

C. Staff and organizational changes

Organization. Due to a reduction in the operating budget DOF reorganized from two regions to one region and from nine areas to five areas.

Staffing. The reduction to the operating budget resulted in the loss of 8 full-time positions, 1 seasonal position, 10 seasonal student interns, and 3 full-time positions were reduced to seasonal. Northern Region Resources Forester Paul Keech was promoted to Fairbanks/Delta Area Forester. The filling of vacant higher-level management positions in both resources and fire remains a difficult task. Recruitment periods often have to be extended in order to obtain a pool of qualified applicants. Special Assistant to the State Forester Clarence Clark retired.

VII. STATEMENT OF FRPA EFFECTIVENESS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CHANGES TO CORRECT PROCEDURAL OR SUBSTANTIVE PROBLEMS

Overall, the FRPA continued to be effective in protecting water quality and fish habitat, while providing for continued timber and fishing industry opportunities. DOF maintained sufficient field presence to implement the Act properly, and to conduct compliance monitoring. DOF issued no new enforcement actions this year after 59 field inspections on private, municipal, and trust land. This, along with strong results from the compliance score sheets in all three regions, indicates a high degree of compliance with the Act, and shows continued success in preventing problems through DPO review, training and field consultations with the operators. DEC listed no impaired waters under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act due to forestry activities on private, state, or other public lands regulated by the FRPA.

The Division made some progress correcting road and bridge maintenance issues in Region III that were identified in 2013; work remains to be completed in 2016 due to heavy rains experienced in the summer of 2014 and the fire season of 2015. The DOF engineers are working with the Fairbanks-Delta foresters to get this work contracted.

Significant progress was achieved on eliminating the reforestation backlog on Kodiak and Afognak Islands. A very few remaining units need to have stocking surveys completed in 2016 to verify establishment.

Recommendations for changes to correct procedural or substantive problems: On November 12, 2015, the Board of Forestry unanimously approved a motion to forward the Reforestation S&TC recommendations to an Implementation Group. The group will have representatives of affected stakeholders such as agencies with implementation responsibilities, forest landowners, site preparation and planting operators, and environmental and wildlife organizations. DNR and ADF&G will convene the Group early in 2016.

VIII. RESEARCH AND MONITORING PRIORITIES FOR 2016

- Continue compliance monitoring in all three FRPA Regions.
- Work with the Reforestation Implementation Group.

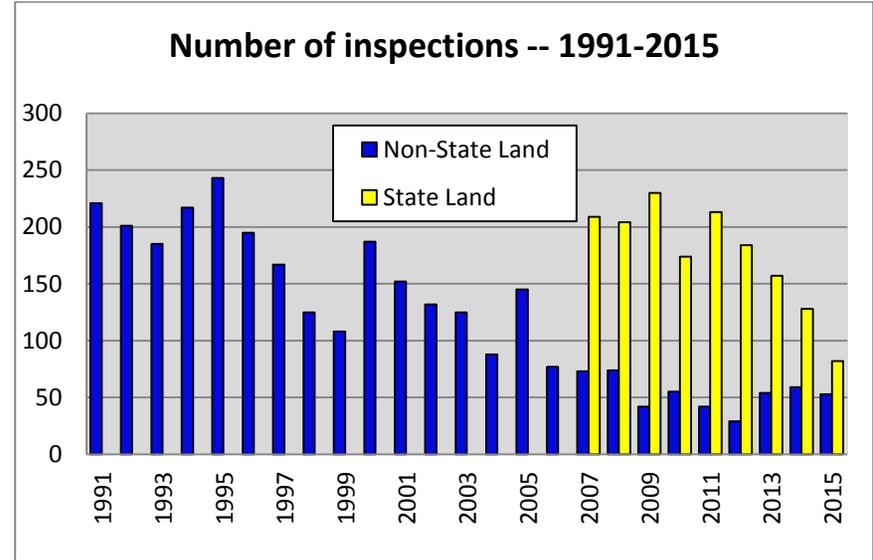
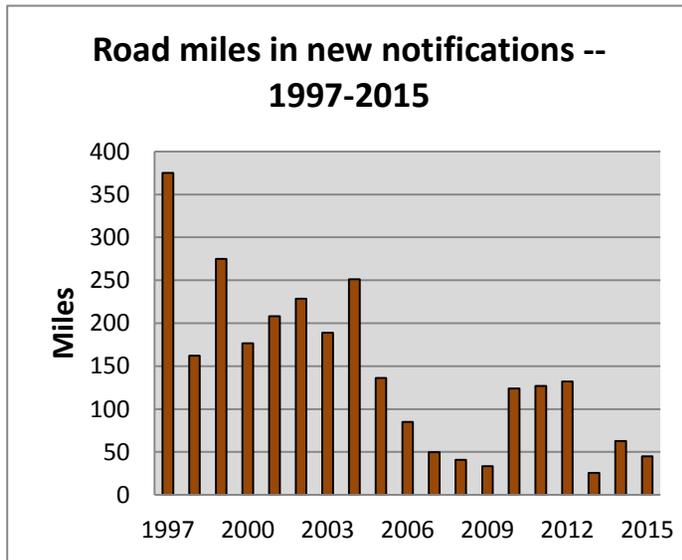
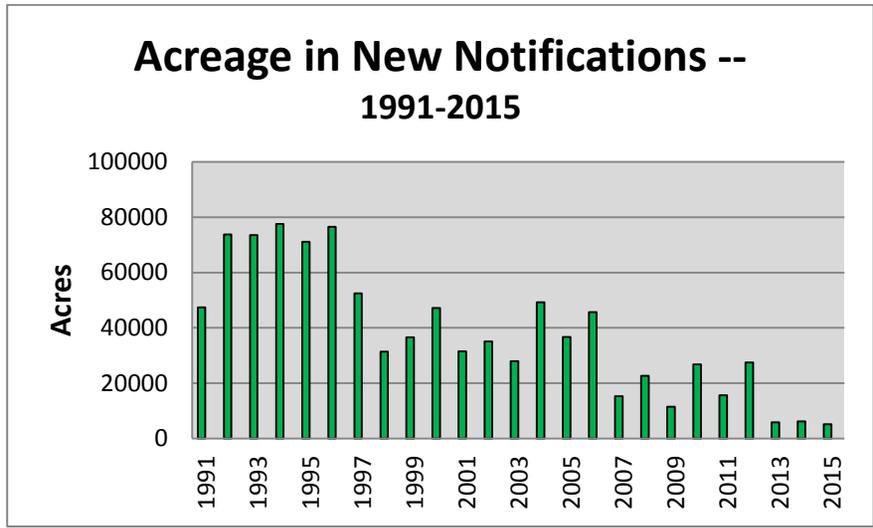
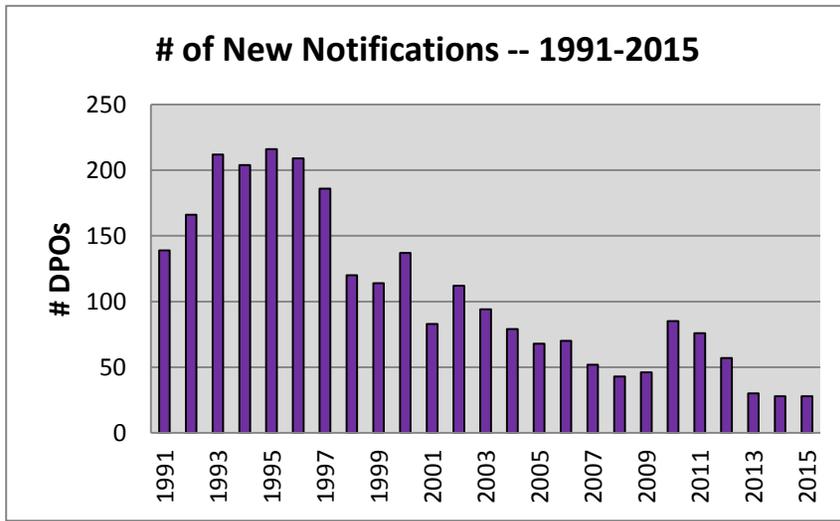
IX. ADDITIONAL TASKS AND INITIATIVES FOR 2016

In addition to ongoing FRPA implementation and enforcement work, and the items listed in section VII and VIII, specific DOF tasks for 2016 include the following:

- Use the funds we are given to their maximum advantage to continue the state forest practices, forest management, and cooperative forestry programs;
- Recruit and train to fill staff vacancies as they occur;
- Provide public information on the success of FRPA in protecting fish habitat and water quality from adverse impacts of commercial forest operations;
- Complete “FRPA 101” training modules for Detailed Plans of Operation and Riparian Areas
- Compile and post FPRA training materials;

- Train DOF staff on scoring and completing BMP compliance score sheets for every FRPA inspection on private or State land, and provide FRPA training to other agencies, and operators;
- Improve documentation of reforestation activities and results on state land;
- Continue to improve FRPA compliance scores in Region III, ensuring that necessary erosion control measures are in-place on roads prior to freeze-up, and providing maintenance to roads used for personal use wood access within the limits of existing funding;
- Review BMP compliance score sheets and add or delete BMPs as needed;
- Use information from the Southeast and Kenai Borough road condition surveys to ensure compliance with road closure and maintenance standards;
- Complete the Southeast State Forest Management Plan;
- Play a leadership role in developing opportunities for the use of renewable biomass energy in heating and power generation including working with project sponsors to secure biomass supply;
- Work with the Governor's Office to pass legislation broadening authority for negotiated timber sales.

Figure 4. Trends in forest practices activities



Appendix A: 2006-2015 FRPA ACTIVITIES ON PRIVATE, MUNICIPAL, AND TRUST LAND

Jan. 2016

NOTE: Forest practices actions are reported on a **calendar year** basis

Number of New Notifications (DPOs)

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
SSE	51	34	27	32	61	54	32	14	14	16
NSE	3	7	2	8	8	6	3	3	0	0
Mat-Su/SW	3	3	1	0	0	0	0	2	2	1
Kenai-Kodiak	13	7	12	6	15	11	13	7	8	6
COASTAL	70	51	42	46	84	71	48	26	24	23
Fairbanks	0	0	0	0	1	0	5	4	4	5
Delta	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tok	0	0	0	0	0	4	4	0	0	0
Copper R.	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
NORTHERN	0	1	1	0	1	5	9	4	4	5
TOTAL	70	52	43	46	85	76	57	30	28	28

Number of Notification Renewals

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
SSE	17	29	27	35	24	27	9	11	12	11
NSE	0	2	0	2	1	0	1	1	3	1
Mat-Su/SW	3	8	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
Kenai-Kodiak	0	7	6	6	2	6	4	8	4	0
COASTAL	20	46	34	43	27	33	14	21	20	14
Fairbanks	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Delta	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tok	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0
Copper R.	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NORTHERN	6	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	5	0
TOTAL	26	47	35	43	27	33	14	21	25	14

Harvest Acreage in New Notifications Received

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
SSE	37,313	10,263	18,988	7,752	17,532	5,577	8,373	4,717	1724	1820
NSE	413	1,039	211	1,858	1,740	2,241	6,379	40	0	0
Mat-Su/SW	5,246	235	160	0	0	0	0	131	154	160
Kenai-Kodiak	2,694	3,697	2,949	1,894	7,389	4,684	8,918	836	3826	2831
COASTAL	45,666	15,234	22,308	11,504	26,661	12,502	23,670	5,724	5,704	4811
Fairbanks	0	0	0	0	168	0	161	174	269	299
Delta	0	0	360	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tok	0	0	0	0	0	2,940	3,685	0	208	0
Copper R.	0	84	0	0	0	205	0	0	0	0
NORTHERN	0	84	360	0	168	3,145	3,846	174	477	299
TOTAL	45,666	15,318	22,668	11,504	26,829	15,647	27,516	5,897	6,181	5,110

Road Miles Notified

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
SSE	25	23	23	30	55	28	15	15	16	18
NSE	3	1	0	0	0	10	16	0.3	0	0
Mat-Su/SW	46	2	1	0	0	61	64	0	0	0
Kenai-Kodiak	11	24	16	3	66	0	0	6	44	25
COASTAL	85	50	40	33	122	99	95	21	60	43
Fairbanks	0	0	0	0	3	0	6	4	2	2
Delta	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tok	0	0	0	0	0	27	31	0	1	0
Copper R.	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
NORTHERN	0	0	1	0	3	28	37	4	3	2
TOTAL	85	50	41	33	124	127	132	26	63	45

FRPA Inspections Conducted on forest operations on private, municipal, and trust land - DOF

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
SSE	20	39	42	29	37	18	6	20	31	24
NSE	9	8	5	3	1	2	1	3	3	0
Mat-Su/SW	25	16	5	0	0	0	0	0	5	5
Kenai-Kodiak	14	6	11	10	17	21	21	29	20	21
COASTAL	68	69	63	42	55	41	28	52	59	50
Fairbanks	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	3
Delta	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tok	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Copper R.	8	4	9	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
NORTHERN	8	4	11	0	0	1	1	2	0	3
						2				
TOTAL	76	73	74	42	55	42	29	54	59	53

Note: Inspections include regular FRPA inspections + variation inspections + reforestation inspections

FRPA Inspections Conducted on forest operations on private, municipal, and trust land - ADF&G

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Fairbanks	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Anchorage	8	8	17	8	9	16	12	15	15	15
Prince of Wales	8	16	15	26	25	14	19	8	8	7
Petersburg	2	0	0	N/A						
Juneau/Douglas	5	32	0	1	7	4	2	6	2	1
Kenai	0	0	0	0	0	3	10	1	2	1
Mat-Su	9	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	34	61	32	35	41	38	43	31	27	24

Note: For data on other ADF&G forestry-related field work, including fish habitat inspections under AS 16.05.841 and .871, road condition surveys, and other effectiveness monitoring, see ADF&G annual report text.

Note: In 2009 the Petersburg office merged with the Douglas office. After 2009, data from the Petersburg Area is reported as part of the Douglas area.

Note: This table does not include field work for the SE Road Condition Survey.

Note: The number of inspections is different than the number of field days spent by the agencies. Some inspections, such as those at Icy Bay, take more than a single day. In other cases, multiple operations can be inspected on a single day. An inspection is counted for each inspection report that is filed. Each report covers a single operating area.

FRPA Inspections Conducted on forest operations on private, municipal, and trust land - DEC

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
SE Region	14	6	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SC Region	0	0	3	12	14	10	12	18	18	3
Interior Region	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	14	6	9	12	14	10	12	18	18	3

FRPA Inspections Conducted on forest operations on STATE land - DOF

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
SSE	70	44	36	15	26	27	16	19	21
NSE	9	25	11	15	8	7	9	8	11
Mat-Su/SW	18	29	23	21	52	70	13	6	4
Kenai-Kodiak	9	7	13	19	29	24	9	18	8
COASTAL	106	105	83	70	115	128	47	51	44
Fairbanks	38	42	46	40	27	21	82	30	19
Delta	42	7	57	21	25	18	26	24	10
Tok	10	37	20	20	7	7	2	16	6
Copper R.	13	13	24	23	39	10	0	7	3
NORTHERN	103	99	147	104	98	56	110	77	38
TOTAL	209	204	230	174	213	184	157	128	82

Note: Inspections include regular FRPA inspections + variation inspections + reforestation inspections

FRPA Inspections Conducted on forest operations on STATE land - ADF&G

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Fairbanks	7	0	3	0	2	0	0	0	2
Anchorage	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	0
Prince of Wales	0	4	1	0	2	3	0	7	1
Petersburg	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A		N/A		N/A
Juneau/Douglas	1	65	3	2	3	0	0	0	0
Kenai	0	0	0	1	1	3	1	0	0
Mat-Su	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	0
TOTAL	10	70	7	3	8	6	1	25	3

Note: For data on other ADF&G forestry-related field work, including fish habitat inspections under AS 16.05.841 and .871, road condition surveys, and other effectiveness monitoring, see ADF&G annual report text.

FRPA Inspections Conducted on forest operations on STATE land - DEC

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
SE Region	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SC Region	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Interior Region	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Note: This table does not include field work for the SE Road Condition Survey.

Note: The number of inspections is different than the number of field days spent by the agencies. Some inspections, such as those at Icy Bay, take more than a single day. In other cases, multiple operations can be inspected on a single day. An inspection is counted for each inspection report that is filed. Each report covers a single operating area.

field days spent on FRPA Inspections on all non-federal land - DOF

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
SSE	109	86	65	52	19	29	33	50	33
NSE	17	30	14	16	6	3	2	11	13
Mat-Su/SW	34	34	23	21	23	39	11	17	10
Kenai-Kodiak	15	18	23	36	109	71	51	44	53
COASTAL	175	168	125	125	157	142	97	122	109
Fairbanks	38	42	46	40	34	31	59	30	65
Delta	42	9	57	21	33	18	15	24	0
Tok	10	37	20	20	2	7	14	16	7
Copper R.	17	22	24	23	76	11	0	19	1
NORTHERN	107	110	147	104	145	67	88	89	73
TOTAL	282	278	272	229	223	209	185	211	182

field days spent on FRPA Inspections on all non-federal land - ADF&G

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Fairbanks	9	0	3	0	2	0	1	0	1
Anchorage	8	17	8	9	23	36	15	15	15
Prince of Wales	16	19	27	25	14	22	8	15	14
Petersburg	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		N/A
Juneau/Douglas	33	65	4	9	6	20	6	2	1
Kenai	0	0	0	1	2	13	2	4	1
Mat-Su	5	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	71	102	42	44	48	91	32	36	32

field days spent on FRPA Inspections on all non-federal land - DEC

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
SE Region	6	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SC Region	0	3	12	21	20	36	18	13	3
Interior Region	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	8	9	12	21	20	36	18	13	3

Variation Trees Reviewed (approved, denied, and other)* in site-specific variations

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
SSE	0	0	538	222	14	6	46	312	202	266
NSE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	243	0	0
Mat-Su/SW	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kenai-Kodiak	9	168	327	361	160	294	678	41	80	458
COASTAL	9	168	872	583	174	300	724	596	282	724
Fairbanks	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Delta	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tok	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Copper R.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NORTHERN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	9	168	872	583	174	300	724	596	282	724

*Variation trees reviewed covers all trees inspected on site in site-specific variations. This includes trees approved or denied for harvest, plus "other" trees such as those that are withdrawn from the variation request or that are found to be outside the riparian buffer. It does not include trees harvested in small streamside zones under 11 AAC 95.240

**Variations in the Tok Area were for groups of small trees rather than individual large trees. See report text for description.

Variation Trees Approved

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
SSE	0	0	531	222	14	6	46	272	195	239
NSE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	237	0	0
Mat-Su/SW	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kenai-Kodiak	8	167	321	361	160	295	640	38	64	450
COASTAL	8	167	859	583	174	301	686	547	259	689
Fairbanks	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Delta	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tok	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Copper R.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NORTHERN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	8	167	859	583	174	301	686	547	259	689
% approved	89%	99%	99%	100%	100%	100%	95%	92%	92%	95%

FRPA Notices of Violation Issued

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
SSE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
NSE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mat-Su/SW	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kenai-Kodiak	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
COASTAL	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1
Fairbanks	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Delta	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tok	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Copper R.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NORTHERN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1

Acres Reviewed for Reforestation Exemptions

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
SSE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NSE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mat-Su/SW	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kenai-Kodiak	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,201	114	0	67
COASTAL	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,201	114	0	67
Fairbanks	0	0	0	0	0	40	0	0	0	0
Delta	0	0	40	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tok	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Copper R.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NORTHERN	0	0	40	0	0	40	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	0	0	40	0	0	40	1,201	114	0	67

APPENDIX B: SUMMARY OF 2015 ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

ACTIONS INITIATED PRIOR TO 2015

AS 41.17 Charging documents for violations

Case #	Date initiated	Location	Issued by	Date of compliance
KK-13-1V	10-1-13	Afognak	Kenai/Kodiak Area	pending

On or about July 31, 2013, Transpac was responsible for cutting 78 trees within an anadromous estuarine area in unit N29 on Afognak Island. The investigation was completed and a Notice of Violation was issued. The Prosecution Coordinator and the Respondent agreed to a proposed settlement. The Case has been transmitted to the Hearing Officer for a decision.

ACTIONS INITIATED IN 2015

AS 41.17.136 Directives

Case #	Date initiated	Location	Issued by	Date of compliance
NONE				

AS 41.17.131 Charging documents for violations

Case #	Date initiated	Location	Issued by	Date of compliance
SSE 15-01V	June 10, 2015	Ketchikan (Election Cr.)	Pat Palkovic	June 22, 2015

This violation was the harvest of one spruce tree within twenty five feet of the stream bank within a small streamside variation request that was granted in May, 2015. The operator incorrectly measured the distance from the harvested tree to the nearest point of the meandering anadromous stream by approximately five feet. A fine was levied and collected, but it was determined that there was no intent or negligence by Sealaska Timber Corporation in causing this violation. The Hearing Officer approved the resolution of this case.

