



ALASKA DIVISION OF FORESTRY

Wildland Fire & Aviation Program

Department of Natural Resource's Mission

Develop, conserve, and maximize the use of Alaska's Natural Resources consistent with public interest.

Forestry's Contribution

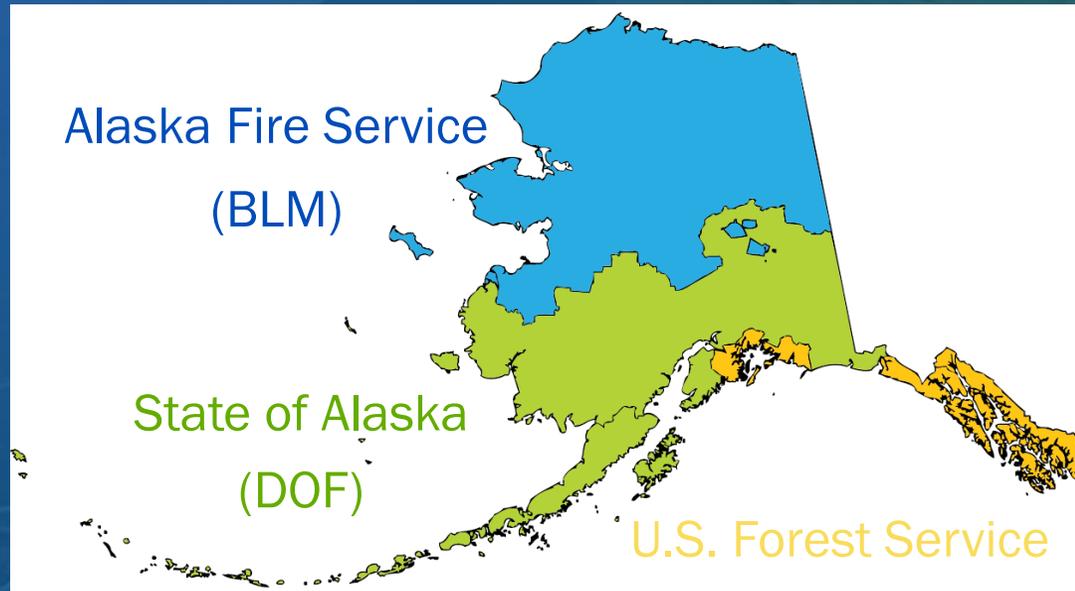
- Ensuring wildland fire suppression resources are in a state of readiness to safely manage wildfires that pose a threat to life, property, and resources on state, private, municipal and other lands negotiated through agreement commensurate with the values at risk.

Goal of Fire & Aviation Program

- Provide safe, and cost-effective and efficient fire protection and related fire and aviation management activities to **protect values at risk on state, private and municipal lands, commensurate with the values at risk.**

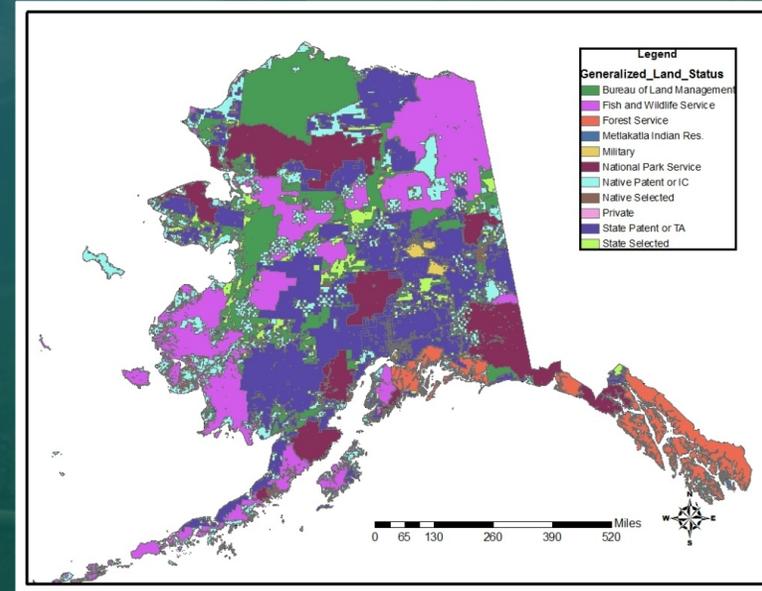
Interagency Cooperation

Protection Agencies

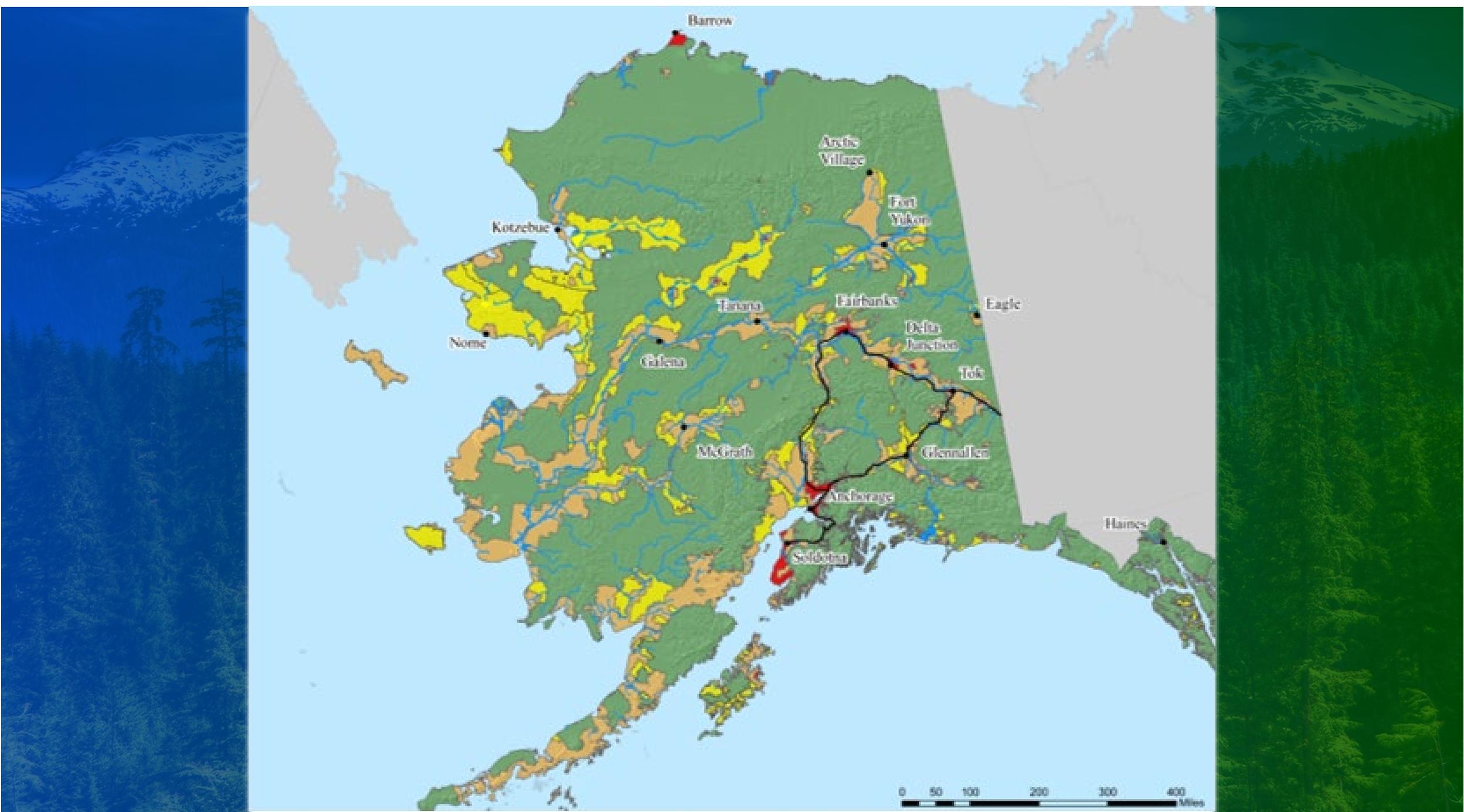


DOF protects 152 million acres – includes almost all the roadside areas of the state (where most Alaskans live)

Jurisdictional Agencies

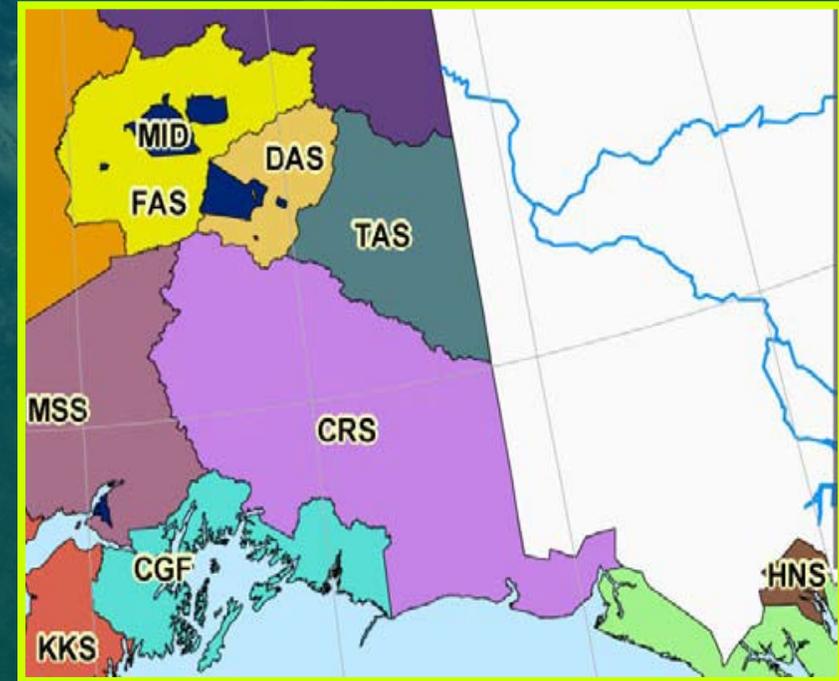


- Bureau of Land Management
- State Department of Natural Resources
- U.S. Forest Service
- National Park Service
- Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Fish and Wildlife Service



State Protection Areas – Primarily High Value

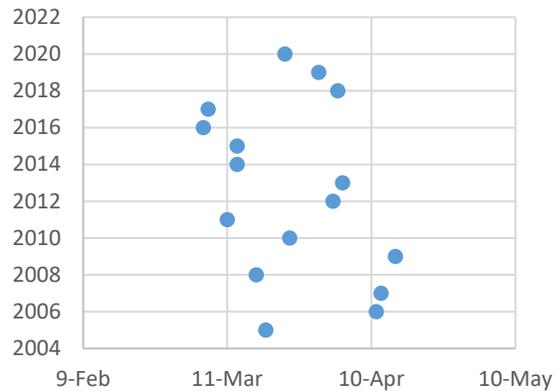
Kenai-Kodiak-11.8 million acres
Mat Su -15.8 million acres
Southwest - 65 million acres



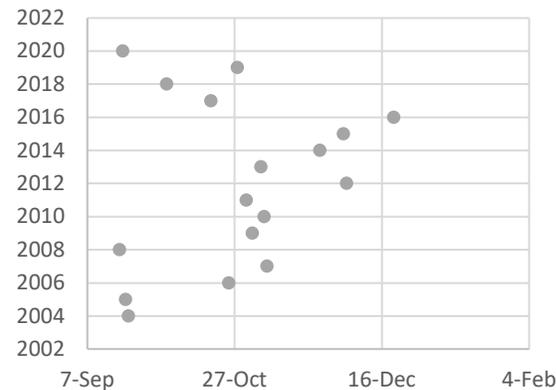
Fairbanks - 9 million acres
Delta - 4 million acres
Tok - 11.5 million acres
Valdez-Copper River - 26 million acres

Fire Statistics

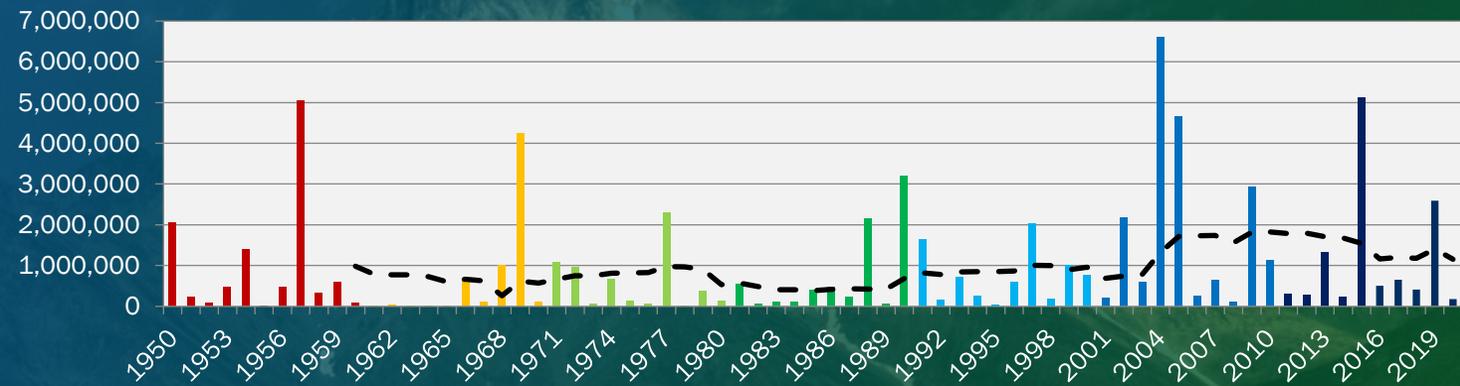
Earliest Fire Starts



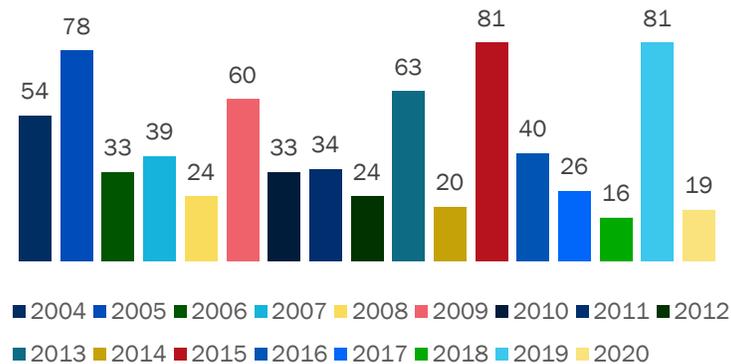
Latest Fire Starts



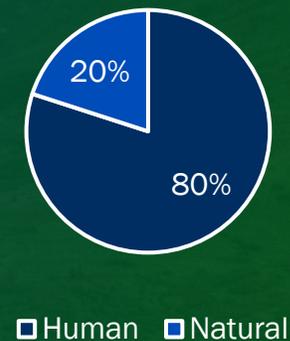
1990-2020 with 11-year rolling average



Staffed Fires by Year

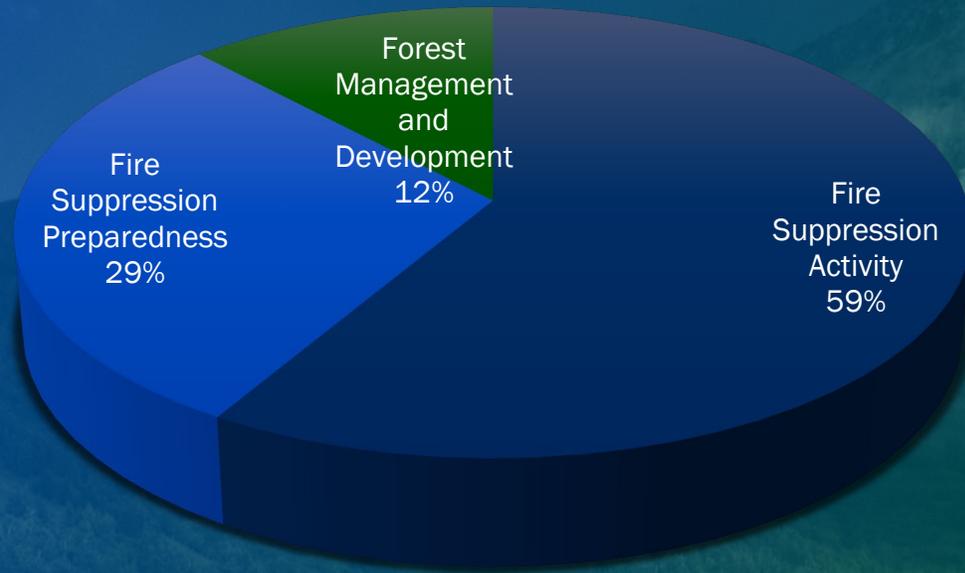


Ignitions

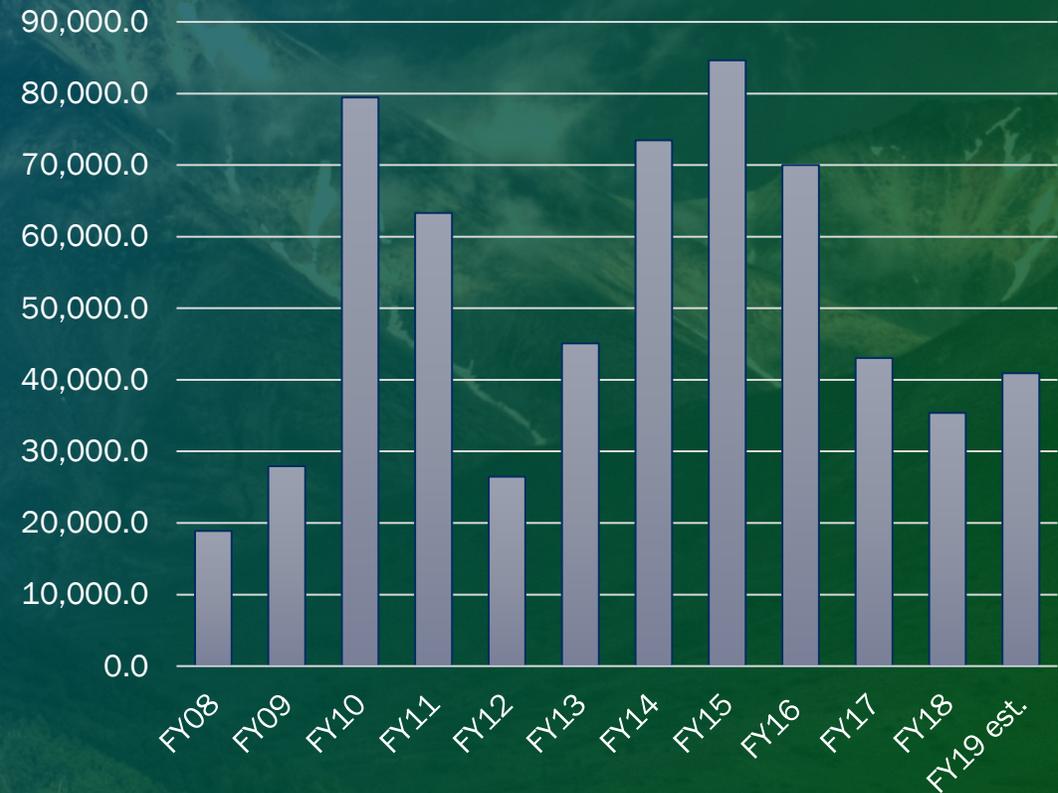


Budget & Consolidated Grant Program

FY2021



10 Year Suppression Costs



Fire Operations

- Two Airtankers
- Six Helicopters
- Four Detection Aircraft
- 85+ Technicians
- 59 Engines
- Six Agency Crews
- Less than 10 EFF Crews
- Type 1 and 2 Incident Management Team



Support

- State Logistics Center
- Alaska Interagency Coordination Center
- Area Dispatch Offices
- Two Warehouses
- Four Retardant Bases
- Public Information
- EFF Program
- Fire Education and Prevention Program



Environmental Challenges

- Recruitment and Retention – Vacancies
- Contractual Costs - Aviation
- Decreased Federal Capacity
- Non-wildfire Incident Response – All Risk-FEMA
- Facilities Replacement & Maintenance – Many 1960s era BLM
- Carbon Credits
- Reliance on Technology
- Climate Change

Economic and Political Challenges

- People moving into remote areas
- Land ownership changes
- Populated areas/human- caused fires
- Variety of values at risk
- Changes in policies and priorities
- Budget cuts
- Protection policies vary for agencies

Strategies for Meeting the Challenges

- Build capacity through new positions
- Look for statewide efficiencies in Forestry dispatch organization
- Implement state supported fuels program with recovered funds
- Continue crew programs - excellent building blocks for new fire leaders
- Use General Funds from Alaska State Legislature for fuels projects

Alaska Wildfire Resources

- **Akfireinfo.com**

Interagency blog where information about fires and fire management in Alaska are posted by Division of Forestry and Alaska Fire Service. You can subscribe to it.

- **Agency websites**

Division of Forestry – forestry.alaska.gov

BLM Alaska Fire Service – afs.ak.blm.gov

Alaska Interagency Coordination Center – fire.ak.blm.gov

- **Facebook**

Both Division of Forestry and BLM Alaska Fire Service maintain Facebook pages with updated fire information.