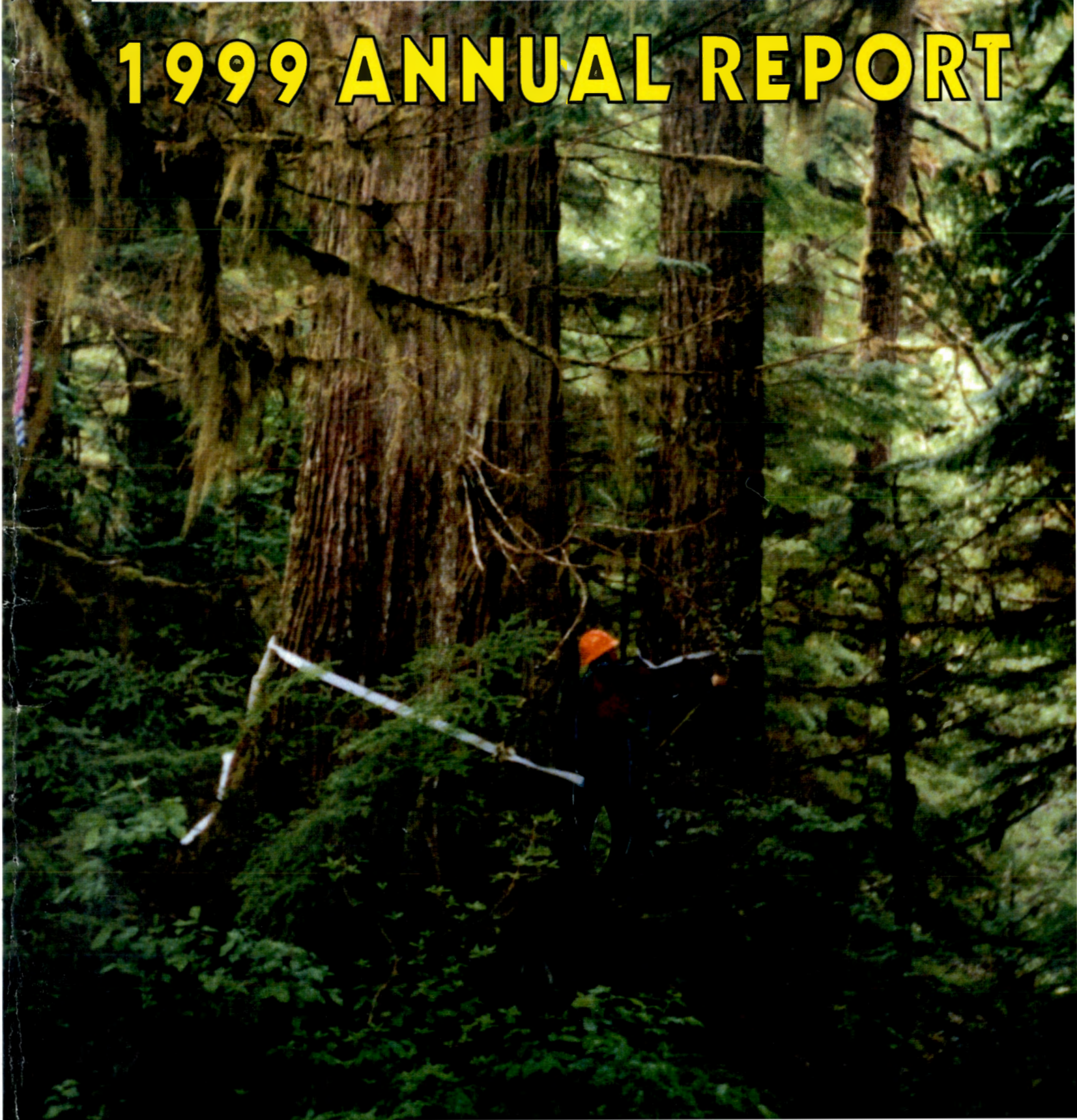




Alaska Department of Natural Resources ■ Division of Forestry

1999 ANNUAL REPORT



Alaska Department of Natural Resources

Division of Forestry

1999
ANNUAL REPORT

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Alaska Division of Forestry

The Division of Forestry is a division within the Alaska Department of Natural Resources.

The division's mission is to develop, conserve, and enhance Alaska's forests to provide a sustainable supply of forest resources for Alaskans.

The Division of Forestry:

- Protects water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, and other forest values through appropriate forest practices and administration of the Forest Resources and Practices Act;
- Manages a wildland fire program on public, private, and municipal lands;
- Encourages development of the timber industry and forest products markets;

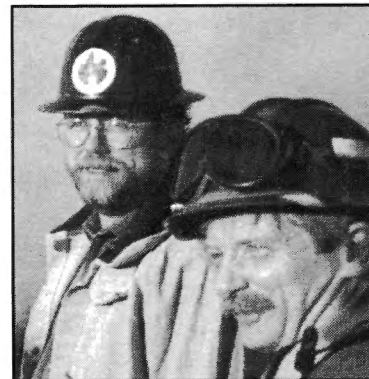
- Administers the federal/state cooperative programs: Urban & Community Forestry, Stewardship, Forest Health, and Conservation Education;
- Manages the Haines and Tanana Valley state forests (over two million acres);
- Conducts timber sales for personal and commercial use and for fuel-wood;
- Gives technical assistance to forest landowners.

The State Forester's Office is located in Juneau. In addition, the division has a central office in Anchorage for policy and program direction, two regional offices, and nine area offices responsible for program support and field work.

In 1999 the division employed 70 people full-time, 151 seasonally, approximately 988 as emergency firefighters, and 12 as interns.

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Glen Holt and George Coyle participate in a prescribed burn near Palmer.
(Dean Brown)



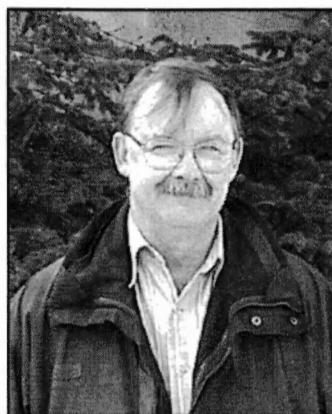
Smokey Bear and friends enjoy an open house held at the Copper River Forestry facility.
(Shilah Hanson)

State Forester's Comments

I'd like to take the opportunity provided by the third annual report in my tenure as State Forester to describe what I believe to be some of the real strengths of the Alaska Division of Forestry. In its shortest form, a summary of our strengths goes something like this: *We have good professional people and we do good work.* While that is a fairly simple statement, it represents a fairly complex array of strengths in the division. Our people are professional, focused, and like what they do. We have a community-based organization that emphasizes the importance of good decision-making in communities across Alaska. We are good at being responsive and flexible in all our programs. Our programs are well-designed and well-managed, they are supported by the public, and **we get them done.**

The Division of Forestry is organized to support these strengths. We rely on program managers for design and development of the Resource Management, Forest Practices, Cooperative Forestry, and Fire Management programs. They consider both short- and long-term statewide issues; monitor how programs are going; represent our programs to the public, legislature, and administration; and work with Regional Foresters to allocate budgets to accomplish those programs. Regional Foresters and their field organizations implement the division's programs in the most efficient and effective manner possible. They also play a very important role as representatives of the division in their local communities. As you look through this annual report, recognize that the considerable accomplishments it describes are the result of well-designed programs delivered by dedicated employees.

In 1999, we made significant strides that should be recognized. Forestry won the first Miller's Reach Fire litigation filed by seven people. Superior Court Judge Beverly Cutler ruled in the state's favor and dismissed the case in its entirety. She has since awarded attorney fees to the state. Subsequently, Anchorage Superior Court Judge Reese dismissed the second lawsuit, ruling that the state was immune to lawsuits for discretionary functions like fire fighting.



State Forester
Jeff Jahnke

The Board of Forestry made significant progress on Region III Forest Practices regulations with active public participation. Value-added timber sales provided needed support to processors, particularly in Southeast. The Palmer Consolidated Fire Facility went from a concept to reality this year—a warehouse, hangar, 6,000-foot runway, and administration building on 14 acres. The fire program took delivery of five new fire engines, much needed replacements. Aviation responded to urban interface fires with the lease of two new air attack planes. Federal excess property acquisitions and a hands-on inventory showed good results. We were prepared for Y2K. The Retirement Incentive Program resulted in eleven retirements and welcoming many new faces - a bitter-sweet opportunity.

I could continue to list our accomplishments last year but would prefer that you take a look for yourself in the following pages. I ask that you join with the Division of Forestry and help us address the very difficult forest resource management issues facing Alaska in the coming year.

State Forester
Jeff J. Jahnke

HIGHLIGHTS OF 1999

Resource Management

- State timber sales provided \$235,017 to the state treasury in 1999.
- The division sold all of its 32 timber sales in fiscal year 1999 to local processors. Most of the 14.6 million board feet in these sales will be processed locally for value-added products, contributing to Alaskan jobs and income.
- The division issued 386 personal use fuel-wood permits, made 19 personal use house log sales and 11 personal use saw log sales.
- The division issued 32 commercial saw log, 9 commercial fuel-wood, and 22 beach log salvage contracts.
- DOF registered 37 log brands, of which 17 were new and 20 were renewals.

Students on Fort Richardson plant Arbor Day trees. (Dean Brown)



- The division planted 410,850 seedlings on 1,274 acres of state land. It scarified an additional 285 acres in preparation for planting or to encourage natural regeneration.
- The Urban & Community Forestry Program awarded 14 grants to 11 communities for a total of \$13,612. Communities matched the grants with \$16,670 in local funds and in-kind services. Grantees held Arbor Day events and planted 216 trees and shrubs. In addition, the program planted 500 seedlings, and 60 trees and shrubs.
- The division participated, for the first time, in the National Tree Trust Community Tree Planting Program. Staff and volunteers potted and maintained 3,174 white spruce seedlings, which will be planted in Southcentral Alaska.



Loading a log truck on Prince of Wales Island. (Mike Curran)

- Staff helped the Kenai Peninsula Global ReLeaf Chapter purchase and distribute 14,000 tree seedlings to private landowners.
- The division provided six all-day Project Learning Tree workshops for educators and youth leaders and led three graduate-level courses for teachers.
- Forest Stewardship Program foresters helped 51 private forest landowners, including two Native corporations, prepare stewardship plans covering 4,991 acres, nearly twice as many acres as in 1998.

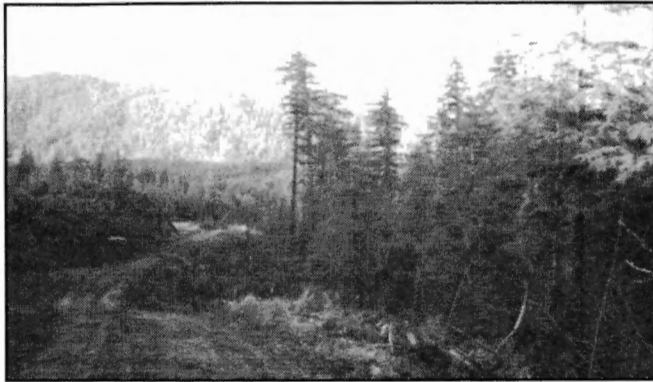


Patricia Joyner and Cassie enjoy Anchorage's urban forest. (Larry Hartig)

HIGHLIGHTS OF 1999

Forest Resources & Practices

- The division processed 114 forest practices notifications of timber harvest and 49 renewals of harvest and conducted 108 field inspections.



(Mike Curran)

- DOF is participating in three forest practices research projects in interior Alaska. The projects are studying Tanana River fish, riparian buffers, and winter roads in permafrost wetlands.
- The Board of Forestry held three meetings around the state, talking with the public about the Forest Resources & Practices Act, and working with the administration and legislature on forestry legislation.
- Amendments to the Forest Resources & Practices Act were adopted by the legislature and became effective in June. The bill strengthens stream protection standards and implements recommendations from the Board of Forestry.

Fire Management

- DOF trained 664 structure fire department personnel in wildland fire skills with 52 courses.
- There were 486 wildfires statewide, which burned one million acres.
- Emergency firefighters collected more than \$5 million in state and federal wages for fighting fires in Alaska and outside the state.
- DOF administered 12 federal Rural Community Fire Protection Grants totaling \$42,094.



(Mike Curran)

Bruce Swain
and Richard
"T-Bone" Lafoya
unload a
helicopter
in Delta.
(Dean Brown)



- DOF acquired 1,875 items for fire fighting, valued at \$168,590, through the Federal Excess Personal Property Program.
- The division continued to work with the Kenai Peninsula Borough Spruce Bark Beetle Coordinator, local fire departments, and the Project Impact Coordinator to implement recommendations from the Spruce Beetle Task Force, with particular focus on the Firewise Community Action Program.

Forest Resources & Practices

The Division of Forestry administers the Forest Resources and Practices Act (FRPA) by reviewing notifications of timber harvests, conducting forest inspections, encouraging compliance, and taking enforcement action when necessary. An important aspect of the program is informing forest landowners, harvest operators, and the public about requirements of the act and responsible forest practices.

The forest practices notification and review process is not the typical permitting process in which a permit is required before an activity is begun. Rather, timber operators submit a harvesting plan (notification) to

the Division of Forestry for review. The division then coordinates review of the notification with the departments of Environmental Conservation and Fish and Game. When the review is completed (within 30 days after notification) the operator may begin harvest operations. Timber operators generally submit notifications well in advance of beginning operations.

At times, areas for which notifications have been submitted are not harvested within the one-year notification period. These areas require a renewal notice the following year before operations begin.

1999 Overview

Activity Summary Forest practice activity increased somewhat in 1999 as indicated by the acreage of new notifications (up 16 percent) and the number of new road miles notified (up 69 percent), even though the number of notifications and renewals declined (see table on page 5).

International timber markets continued to be weak, which affected export operations, and no new notifications were received in interior Alaska in 1999. However, staff members noted an increase in the number of small local processors, especially in south-east Alaska, and some increase in activity is expected in both coastal and interior Alaska in 2000.

Notifications, Inspections & Enforcement

The Division of Forestry received and reviewed 114 notifications of operations for private, municipal, and state lands in 1999, down slightly from the number received in 1998. DOF also conducted 108 field inspections in Regions I and II (no notifications were received for Region III). Inspections decreased in 1999 due to a shortage of travel funds and an increase in implementation monitoring field work. Cooperation between the agencies stretches available field staff by coordinating visits. The three resource agencies (DNR, ADF&G, and DEC) are rarely all present for an inspection, although joint inspections were envisioned by the act. Inspections by a single agency – either DNR or ADF&G – are increasingly common. Additional staff time is needed to increase the number of field inspections to the desired level.

No notices of violation were issued this year. Two directives were issued for road construction and maintenance issues, one each in Icy Bay and on the Kenai Peninsula.

Implementation Monitoring Monitoring is required by the Forest Resources and Practices Act (AS 41.17.047(d)). Implementation monitoring helps to:

- assess how well the best management practices (BMPs) are being applied
- assure that the measures for controlling non-point source pollution are being implemented
- identify training needs
- determine whether the BMPs are workable on the ground.

In 1999, a second round of BMP implementation monitoring was performed. Eleven different operations were visited in July, August, and September to gather uniform information on how the operators had been applying 37 selected BMPs in the field. Information was gathered on harvest operations conducted from 1996 through 1998. Priority was given to selecting harvest activities that had a higher risk of having an adverse effect on unstable slopes or fish habitat. An analysis and report on the findings from the 1999 data will be available for the Board of Forestry to review early in 2000.

Forest Resources & Practices Act Administrative Activities

Region	New Harvest Plan Notifications			Harvest Plan Renewals			Acreage in New Notifications			Number of Inspections			Variation Requests		
	1997	1998	1999	1997	1998	1999	1997	1998	1999	1997	1998	1999	1997	1998	1999
Coastal Region															
Mat-Su/SW	4	4	3	18	15	16	406	5,116	7,246	27	12	19	1	0	0
Haines	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Juneau	34	29	46	11	11	11	8,392	4,641	6,791	12	51	12	8	3	4
Kenai/Kodiak	53	27	32	20	13	10	23,374	7,457	17,586	91	57	57	0	0	0
Ketchikan	89	58	33	21	20	12	17,642	11,650	4,915	30	5	20	3	0	2
Region Totals	180	118	114	70	59	49	49,814	28,864	36,538	160	125	108	12	3	6
Northern Region															
Copper River	3	2	0	0	0	0	1,460	2,546	0	4	0	0	0	0	0
Delta	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Fairbanks	2	0	0	0	0	0	168	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tok	1	0	0	1	0	0	1,020	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Northern Totals	6	2	0	3	0	0	2,648	2,546	0	7	0	0	0	0	0
State Totals	186	120	114	73	59	49	52,462	31,410	36,538	167	125	108	12	3	6

Region	Variation Trees Reviewed			Acres Reviewed for Reforestation Exemption			Reforestation Acres Reviewed			Notification of FRPA Violation			New Notifications Road Miles		
	1997	1998	1999	1997	1998	1999	1997	1998	1999	1997	1998	1999	1997	1998	1999
Coastal Region															
Mat-Su/SW	0	0	0	0	0	0	450	0	160	0	0	0	13	3	26
Haines	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Juneau	2,376	4,113	1,501	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	76	47	60
Kenai/Kodiak	69	0	0	0	0	13,874	0	0	0	0	0	0	195	50	146
Ketchikan	195	0	21	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	80	57	41
Coastal Totals	2,640	4,113	1,522	0	0	13,874	450	0	160	2	2	0	364	157	273
Northern Region															
Copper River	0	0	0	9,776	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	5	0
Delta	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fairbanks	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Tok	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	376	0	0	0	3	0	0
Northern Totals	0	0	0	9,776	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	5	0
State Totals	2,640	4,113	1,522	9,776	0	13,874	450	0	536	2	2	0	375	162	273

Effectiveness Monitoring The Division of Forestry participated in projects led by the Alaska Forest Association and the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska to expand effectiveness monitoring in coastal Alaska. The studies are *Buffer Zones and Large Woody Debris Supply* and *Large Woody Debris Sources and Transport Study*.

Reforestation Exemptions Private salvage harvesting of timber killed by bark beetles continued in the Kenai-Kodiak area. As a result, DOF continued to receive many requests for exemptions from reforestation requirements under 11 AAC 95.375. In 1999, DOF received 14 requests and conducted 25 inspections for new and prior requests. DOF approved exemptions on 11,874 acres and denied them on 2,000 acres. No new exemption requests were received for the Copper River Area. On state land, DNR reforests all salvage areas.

Alaska Board of Forestry

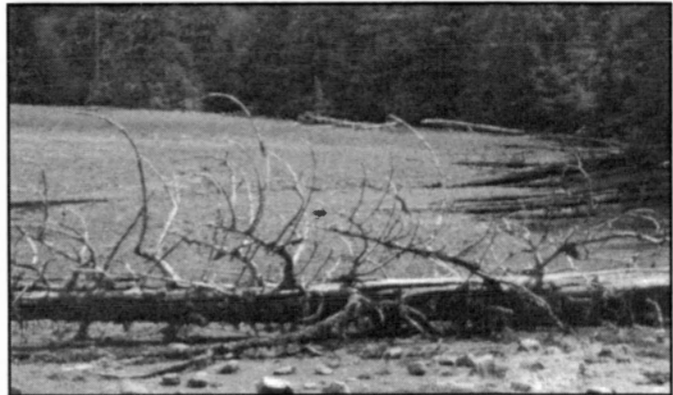
The nine-member Board of Forestry advises the state on forest practices issues and provides a forum for discussion and resolution of forest management issues on state land. The board also reviews all proposed changes to the Alaska Forest Resources & Practices Act and its regulations. Board members are appointed by the governor for three-year terms, and represent a variety of forest-related interests. Board members are listed on page 50.

In 1999, the board held three hearings. Main topics included:

- funding for forest practices, including Clean Water Act (Section 319) funding
- forest practices regulation changes
- forest practices monitoring
- stream classification and riparian standards in Region III (interior Alaska)
- log transfer facility standards
- management of interior state forest lands
- reforestation exemptions
- a proposal to make Five-Year Schedules of Timber Sales a biennial requirement

This year, a bill amending the Forest Resources and Practices Act as recommended by the Board of Forestry was adopted, becoming effective in June 1999. Amended regulations to accompany the changes in the act became effective in November 1999. These changes complete implementation of the Region I recommendations from the board and the Science/Technical Committee.

In interior Alaska, the resource agencies initiated a review of Region III forest practices standards, as recommended by the board. DOF also began research on Tanana River dynamics, funded by Clean Water Act (Section 319) funds. The board supported this project as a high priority for Region III research.



Woody debris in riparian area. (Mike Curran)

FRPA Amendments

This year, Senate Bill 12 passed without opposition, following strong support from the resource agencies, the Board of Forestry, and the timber and fishing industries. It became effective in June 1999. The bill incorporated the board's recommendations and made the following changes to the act for Region I.

Stream classification system:

- Changed the stream classification system so that all anadromous streams and tributaries to anadromous streams are classified and have designated riparian areas
- Expanded the definition of Type B streams to include all anadromous water bodies other than Type A waters
- Redefined Type C to cover tributaries to an anadromous water body that are greater than or equal to 12 percent gradient
- Added Type D to cover tributaries to anadromous waters with less than 12 percent gradient.

Prior to the changes, as many as 20 percent of all anadromous waters and tributaries to anadromous waters may have been unclassified.

Riparian management:

- Established buffers on Type B stream reaches. The buffers extend 66 feet from the stream or to the slope break, whichever area is smaller
- Extended slope stability standards on Type A reaches to 100 feet or the slope break, whichever is smaller
- Required retention of low-value timber where prudent within 25 feet along wide Type C and D stream reaches.

These changes provide woody debris to anadromous stream systems. Woody debris creates stream pools that are essential for fish habitat, provides cover, and reduces sedimentation. These changes further strengthen the state's riparian management system and continue to help satisfy the requirements for non-point source pollution prevention under the federal Clean Water Act.

Regulation Changes After Senate Bill 12 passed, the division initiated the process for amending the forest practices regulations to complete the package of changes recommended by the Board of Forestry and the Science/Technical Committee. The public reviewed the proposed changes in June and July 1999, and the board reviewed the final package at its July 1999 meeting. The changes were adopted and became effective on November 20, 1999.

The division also prepared revisions of the regulations on Clearing of Spruce (11 AAC 95.195) and Slash (11 AAC 95.370). These changes have been submitted to the Department of Law for final review and are expected to be filed and effective in Spring, 2000.

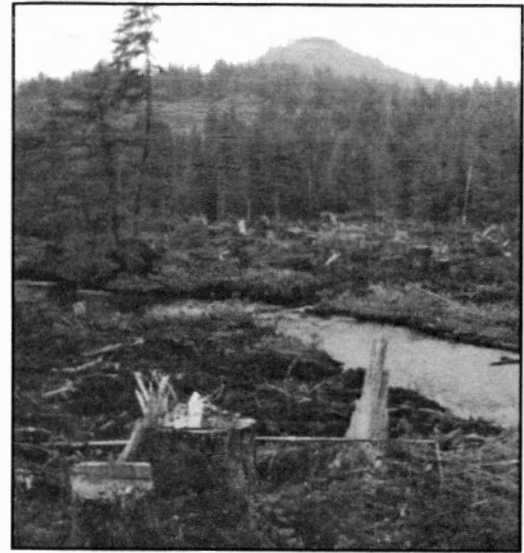
Region III Riparian Standards In March, the division convened an interdisciplinary working group to develop a stream classification system for forest practices in Region III. The Region III Stream Classification/Forest Practices Committee met six times in 1999. The committee is co-chaired by the Division of Forestry and the ADF&G Habitat & Restoration Division. Members include experienced field staff from the resource agencies, and scientists from the University of Alaska Fairbanks, Tanana Chiefs Conference, U.S. Geological Survey, and Alaska Biological Research. Members have expertise in Alaskan fisheries and fish biology, hydrology, forest ecology, riparian habitats, aquatic ecosystems, and interactions between forest practices, fish habitat, and water quality.

The committee developed drafts of the following products:

- Stream classification system
- Key to stream classes
- List of examples of streams in each class
- Matrix of habitat components and potential forestry impacts by stream class

The committee also began review of existing riparian management standards and in December began a literature review of key riparian management topics.

Tanana River Dynamics The division began work on phase I of a Tanana River Dynamics Study in the summer of 1999. This high priority project was identified by the 1998 Region III Research Workshop and by the Region III Riparian Committee. The project will match current information from the satellite images with old photos to provide information on erosion rates, input of large woody debris from erosion, and the relationship of vegetation type to erosion rates. The project is compiling information within a band one mile wide on either side of the Tanana River from Kantishna to Tok. Vegetation typing within this area is

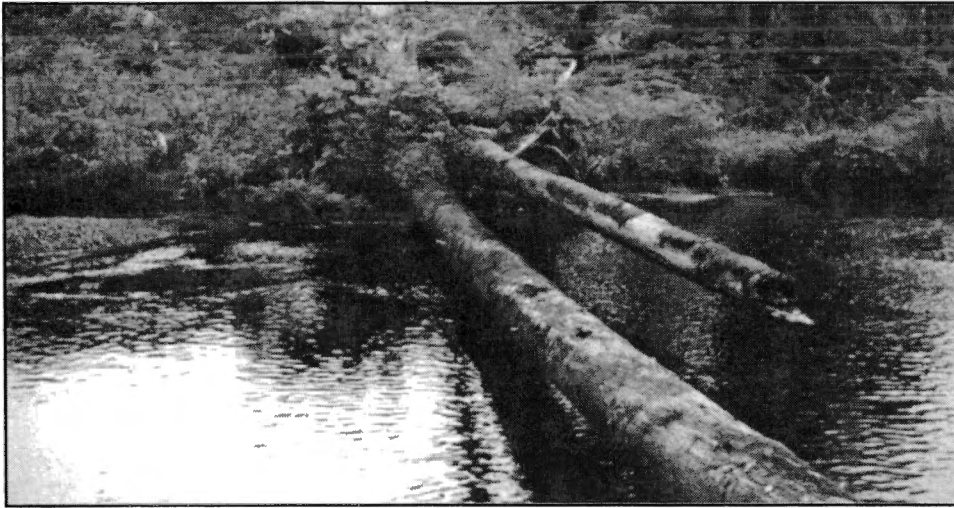


*The Forest Resources and Practices Act protects waterbodies in harvested areas.
(Mike Curran)*

also being improved. The report on phase I is due by the end of June 2000. DOF will request funds for phase II to extend the data from Tok upstream to Northway and from Kantishna downstream to the confluence with the Yukon, completing coverage of the area where forest management activity is likely.

Riparian Buffer Study The division entered into a cooperative study with Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) to monitor buffer areas in the riparian zone. This is a long-term monitoring study to help provide information for buffer design for future harvesting. TCC has completed the initial study of tree mortality. In 1999, TCC worked on methodology for quantifying recruitment of cottonwood in the buffers.

FRPA Budget The Forest Practices budget for Fiscal Year 2000 was unchanged from Fiscal Year 1999. DOF had 4.9 full-time equivalent positions funded for forest practices, spread over eight positions. This small staff is responsible for coordination for the resource agencies, notification review, field inspections, enforcement, monitoring, training, and review and development of FRPA standards. DNR, like ADF&G and DEC, is increasingly dependent on federal funds for forest practices, and there is no guarantee that federal funds will continue to be available. A shortage of travel funds, limited field staff, and a need to shift some staff time to essential implementation monitoring work resulted in a decrease in the number of field inspections in 1999, despite an increase in the acreage of new notifications. Increased harvest activity is expected on some ownerships in the Coastal Region in FY 2001.



*Rainbow Creek on Revillagigedo Island is a large Class C stream providing habitat for Dolly Varden and cutthroat trout.
(Mike Curran)*

Clean Water Act Funds Federal Clean Water Act (Section 319) funding from the Environmental Protection Agency helped support the Forest Practices Program in 1999. DNR, DEC, and ADF&G continued to work closely together to set priorities for Section 319 funds. The agencies agreed that the highest priority for FY 2000 was adequate field staffing for project reviews, field inspections, enforcement activities, and monitoring. This year, the federal

funds helped support FRPA field staffing in south-east Alaska and field work in the Copper River area. Section 319 funds also helped support phase I of the Tanana River Dynamics Study.

While the amount of federal money available is less than the total needed for full funding of the state forest practices programs, it is a great help. Given the level of state funding, Section 319 funds are essential for adequate implementation of the act.

New staff

The division hired Pat Palkovic to fill the vacant Ketchikan Forester II position, putting two staff foresters in the Ketchikan office for the first time in several years. Pat's help is welcome since the Ketchikan office has one of the largest forest practices programs in the state and an expanding timber sale program to help support local value-added wood processors.



*Pat Palkovic standing on a spruce 'long butt' near Upper Mahoney Creek near Ketchikan.
(Mike Curran)*

Resource Management

The Division of Forestry manages forests on approximately 20 million acres of state land, including the Tanana Valley and Haines state forests, which have a combined total of over two million acres. This land is managed for multiple use and sustained yield of renewable resources.

In cooperation with federal agencies, the division surveys forested land to assess the impacts of insects and

disease, and prescribes preventative measures and treatments. DOF conducts personal-use, commercial timber, and fuel-wood sales, and emphasizes in-state use of wood for value-added processing. Division staff provide technical assistance and administer federal grants to private landowners and local governments to help them establish and manage forested lands in both rural areas and urban communities.

Forest Products Market Overview

In 1999, following a year of very poor market conditions, export markets generally increased in value by 10 to 15 percent. Some Asian countries began to buy wood products again as economies rebounded. Increased log exports from Canada, primarily British Columbia, helped to keep a lid on prices in 1999.

Southeast: Timber manufacturers in Southeast have nearly completed the transition to a strictly independent market. Some small and medium-size entrepreneurs have added high value-added manufacturing equipment such as re-saws, dry kilns and planer/molders. New products include kiln-dried and surfaced dimension (structural) lumber; tongue and groove paneling, decking, and flooring; ship lap and log cabin siding; and interior trim molding. Shop lumber, currently exported as rough green, may become dried cut stock, and opportunities for import substitution, especially for molding and tongue and groove products are good to excellent. Export markets for specialty Alaska yellowcedar products are expected to continue and grow. Western redcedar continued to be a highly sought species. The Ketchikan and Juneau areas sold all timber offered in 1999, which is evidence that supply has not exceeded demand.

Interior: Over the last several years, there has ceased to be an export market for interior spruce. There is no longer a market for pulp shipped from the Port of Valdez or saw logs shipped south by rail. With the loss of these profit centers, competition for timber sales dropped along with stumpage prices. The division has found it difficult to sell timber sales containing significant portions of logs that are small or of low quality.



Governor Knowles at the Pacific Log & Lumber Mill in Ketchikan. Value-added timber sales encourage Alaskan sawmill operators to invest in new manufacturing equipment and produce in-state wood products such as paneling, flooring, and trim. (Mike Curran)

Local sawmills invested their export profits in improved milling and harvesting equipment and are turning to higher value products to develop new local markets. Green rough dimension lumber has been the mainstay of interior sawmills. Many sawmills are now turning to quality precision products such as flooring, beveled siding, tongue and groove, and surfaced or shaped lumber and logs. Many mills have also been successful in marketing complete buildings and building packages both in interior and southcentral Alaska.

Kenai Peninsula: Most of the timber being harvested on the Kenai Peninsula is beetle-killed spruce of low quality. Prices for logs are generally low except for saw logs from green, uninfested trees, which are becoming increasingly scarce in infested areas. Harvest operations dropped substantially when Circle DE Pacific Corporation closed, however, other companies have increased their operations. About 25 to 35 trucks a day are hauling logs to the Homer Spit for export.

Timber Sold and Cut on State Land by Region — Calendar Year 1999

	Sawtimber (MBF)	Other Products (MBF)	Total Volume (MBF)
Coastal Region			
Volume Sold	10,996	2,502	13,498
Volume Cut	3,384	6,839	10,223
Northern Region			
Volume Sold	7,172	380	7,552
Volume Cut	21,615	709	22,324
Total			
Volume Sold	18,168	2,882	21,050
Volume Cut	24,999	7,548	32,547

Note: Kenai sales listed as 'spruce timber' are likely for chips and are listed as "other products."

Timber Sold and Cut on State Land in Commercial Sales

Year	Annual Sales Volume (MBF)	Annual Cut Volume (MBF)	Cut Value
1988	27,475	25,177	\$515,980
1989	21,600	22,711	\$514,632
1990	35,783	18,603	\$477,580
1991	10,156	16,241	\$236,205
1992	10,044	26,543	\$1,090,064 *
1993	27,169	9,683	\$342,581
1994	27,695	27,463	\$783,987
1995	43,812	27,489	\$2,140,411
1996	32,068	24,586	\$1,268,656
1997	29,116	38,393	\$887,380
1998	41,457	21,450	\$522,070
1999	20,951	17,374	\$235,017
Avg.	27,277	22,976	\$751,223

*1992 figure includes a back payment of \$413, 665.

Conversion Factors

MBF = Thousand Board Feet

1 cord = 85 cubic feet (cf)

Board foot (bf) = the unit used to measure timber. One board foot equals one foot square by one inch thick. In log scale, one board foot is the amount of wood fiber that, if sawn, is estimated to produce one foot of lumber.

Cubic feet are converted to MBF at a rough average of 4 bf:cf in the NRO.

Lineal feet (lf) are converted to MBF assuming a 12" diameter log for houselogs

= 1 lf = 0.785 cf,

assumes 6" diameter log for poles

= 1 lf = 0.196 cf.

Commercial and Personal Use Contracts Issued - Calendar Year 1999

		Commercial Use			Personal Use		
		Fuelwood Sales	Sawlog Sales	Beach Log Salvage	Fuelwood Permits	Houselog Sales	Sawlog Sales
Coastal Region	Mat-Su/SW	-	-	-	15	1	7
	Kenai-Kodiak	-	3	-	0	2	2
	Haines	-	3	-	0	0	0
	Juneau	-	3	-	0	0	0
	Ketchikan	-	7	-	0	0	0
Region subtotal		-	16	22	15	3	9
Northern Region	Delta	2	7	-	67	1	1
	Fairbanks	4	5	-	246	5	1
	Tok	2	4	-	49	1	0
	Valdez/Copper R.	1	-	-	9	9	0
Region subtotal		9	16	-	371	16	2
TOTALS		9	32	22	386	19	11

Note: Some sales include a mix of products. Sales are listed by the product that accounts for the greatest proportion of the sale value.

Note: Kenai sawlog sales may be used for chips.

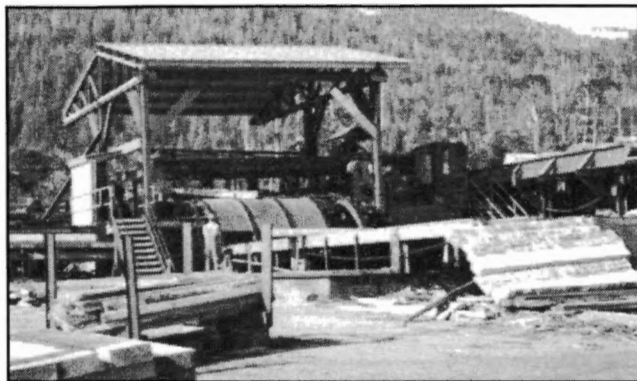
Note: Beach log salvage licenses are managed by the Coastal Region and are not tracked by area.

Average Stumpage Price by Species - Calendar Year 1999

SPECIES	Redcedar	Birch	Hemlock	Sitka Spruce	White Spruce	Yellowcedar
MBF	\$31.73	--	\$10.49	\$23.58	\$26.91	\$25.29
CCF		\$5.12				

Prices include all commercial sales regardless of grade (e.g., sawtimber, utility, timber) for which prices were set by species.

The Circle DE Pacific Corporation closure was a big blow to the Kenai Peninsula timber industry. It was the main purchaser of utility and low-grade logs on the Kenai Peninsula. It purchased timber sales from the state, private landowners, and Native corporations, chipped the logs on site with mobile chippers, and stored them on the Homer Spit. The company then transferred the chips from the storage facility onto container ships bound for Asian markets.



Pacific Log & Lumber Mill in Ketchikan. (Mike Curran)

Circle DE Pacific Corporation has four state timber sale contracts that are not yet complete, leaving approximately 17 million board feet of unharvested

timber. About 400,000 seedlings on order for these timber sales are scheduled for delivery in 2000.

Gates Construction bought the Circle DE Pacific Corporation's chip loading facility late in 1999. When it secures a market, chipping will resume. A long-term timber supply in large tracts presents the biggest challenge to maintaining this industry.

Gates Construction has also installed a new sawmill near Stariski. The mill, named Alaska Spruce, can process approximately 15 million board feet annually. It is operating near peak capacity with two shifts to supply kiln-dried dimensional lumber to markets on the Kenai Peninsula, in Anchorage, Bethel and the Lower 48. The owners are pursuing new markets in Fairbanks and Glennallen. An additional kiln and a re-saw are being added to boost capacity by 25 to 30 percent.

The timber industry has increased substantially since 1991 and contributes significantly to the Kenai Peninsula economy. Gross logging sales within the borough have averaged \$25.9 million over the last five years. By comparison, Cook Inlet sockeye salmon commercial fishing values (a mainstay of the borough economy) over the same period averaged \$24.9 million; an indication that timber harvesting and processing is a strong component of the Kenai Borough economy.

Forest Management and Timber Sales

Southeast: Foresters in the Haines, Juneau, and Ketchikan offices worked together on timber sales near Haines, Petersburg, Wrangell, and Prince of Wales Island in 1999. They prepared and sold 13 sales ranging in size from 2,900 to 5.5 million board feet for a total of 8.4 million board feet. All sales required value-added manufacturing.

Foresters from Juneau and Haines helped the Ketchikan Area Office lay out a large sale in the Coffman Cove area on Prince of Wales Island. This value-added sale was negotiated and sold to Age Cedar Products in July. These products will be manufactured at the Age mill in Wrangell and at the Seley mill in Ketchikan. This sale comprised 212 acres for a total volume of 5,515 thousand board feet (MBF) and will require 1.75 miles of new road construction.

The Ketchikan Area also offered five small sales, ranging from one acre to nine acres, on Prince of

Wales Island. All sales require manufacture in existing sawmills on the island. The Kitkun Bay sale and the two small sales adjacent to the Tongass highway south of Ketchikan were sold in 1998 and harvested by helicopter in 1999.

Preparation began on a value-added sale for approximately three million board feet in the Thorne Bay area that will be offered in 2000. Requests for proposals will be solicited for this sale.

One small three-acre sale on the Petersburg road system was offered to a local operator. This sale will meet the operator's supply needs for a year. Two sales were offered near Wrangell. One was sold to Silver Bay Logging and the other to Age Cedar Products. Both sales require mainline road construction and one also requires spur road construction. DOF continued to prepare a sale on Wrangell well into autumn.

Timber harvest operations in the Haines State Forest continue to focus on salvaging beetle-killed spruce. The number of small sawmill operations in the Haines Area remained at about the same level as in 1998. Operators harvested 84,000 board feet to produce primarily rough cut lumber and firewood for local sales. Rayonier completed construction of a new road in the Kelsall Sale in anticipation of completing the four-million-board-foot Thunder Creek Sale in 2000.

The division planted 72,350 plug-one Sitka spruce seedlings on 550 harvested acres within the Haines State Forest. Plug-one seedlings are two-year-old seedlings (ten to twenty inches tall), and have proved much harder than smaller seedlings in the harsh weather conditions of the Haines area. The change to this size seedling has increased survival rates from 40-60 percent up to 80-90 percent.

Pre-commercial thinning of areas harvested in the late 1970s has continued every year since 1993. This year, 84 acres were thinned for a grand total of 1,230 acres. Thinning has ranged from 12- to 20-foot spacing between trees. The thinning allows for continued good growth on fewer trees, resulting in larger trees in a shorter period. Thinning has the added benefit of maintaining browse species for moose for a longer period. The stands harvested in the 1970s are now 20 to 50 feet tall with diameters from six to 14 inches.

Haines Area roads, primarily the Kelsall road, received significant damage during a storm in late 1998. Several sections of road washed out, culverts and ditch lines plugged, and a bridge abutment washed out. The roads and bridges were repaired with disaster relief money to allow continued access for forestry operations and for public recreational use. Approximately 20 miles of roads were maintained in these operations.

Kenai Peninsula: The Kenai-Kodiak Area Office sold two timber sales in 1999 for approximately 4.6 million board feet. The office also offered two other new sales totaling 2.2 million board feet and re-offered two sales totaling 2.4 million board feet, but received no bids. Timber sale operators claim financial difficulties, low market conditions, and reforestation requirements make the sales economically unappealing. All six sales focused on the salvage of beetle-killed trees and reforestation of harvested sites.

The sales sold were the Happy and Schilter sales located near Ninilchik and Moose Pass, respectively. In addition, a small, negotiated sale of 126,000 board feet was sold to Gates Construction near Ninilchik. Harvest of this small sale has been completed.

The sales that did not sell were the Jones Sale located in the East End Road area in Homer, Ninilchik Hills Sale off Oil Well Road in the Caribou Hills, and the Island and Small Lake I sales near Clam Gulch.

Timber harvest operations on the Kenai Peninsula were less active than in 1998. The Clam Sale, located near Happy Valley, was completed and 19,950 seedlings were planted on the harvested area. The Madson Sale is complete except for land-clearing and grass seeding for stabilization on cut-slopes. Harvesting on the Tower Sale continues and portions of the harvest area were planted. The road into the new Schilter Sale is finished and harvesting will begin early in 2000. The Madson, Tower, and Schilter sales are all located just south of Moose Pass. Harvest operations on the Caribou Hills Sale continued until late January. Harvesting operations on the Happy Sale, on the western Kenai Peninsula, began in the fall of 1999. Seedlings are on order to reforest the Happy Sale in 2000.

Seedlings, site preparation, and planting costs make the state's sales less desirable economically than similar sales on private land. Other landowners do not require timber sale purchasers to reforest. The division may look to the legislature for additional reforestation funding. Reforestation of beetle-killed stands provides a multitude of long-term public benefits and is a good investment of public funds.

Reforestation

Regeneration of harvested or naturally disturbed areas is an essential part of the state management program. In order to achieve a sustained yield of wood fiber from forest lands, the division collects cones for seed processing and grows seedlings to plant in harvested areas and for other regeneration projects. DOF cooperates with other agencies to conduct research for better success in seedling survival.



Blair Acheson, of the Valdez/Copper River area, shows some of his nursery stock that will be used for spot planting in harvested areas. These lodgepole pines are raised from seeds produced by trees planted near Kenny Lake in 1984. (Scott Christy)

This year, 410,850 seedlings were grown from the division's seed depository and planted on 1,274 acres. As part of planting operations, 191 acres were scarified, and an additional 94 acres were scarified for natural regeneration. The division also assisted in reforestation research projects on the Kenai Peninsula. In cooperation with the University of Alaska, Sitka spruce seedlings grown from seed collected across southcentral Alaska were planted on a site where the spruce had been killed by spruce bark beetles. In cooperation with the US Forest Service Institute of Northern Forestry, a planting site was prepared for spruce seedlings collected from parent trees with possible resistance to spruce beetles. These sites will be monitored in coming years for survival, growth, and spruce beetle susceptibility.

After a heavy cone crop and collection effort in 1998, the 1999 cone crop was very poor across Alaska. Hence, no new seed collections were made. However, the Plant Materials Center completed germination testing of seed collected in 1998.

Reforestation on State Land – 1999

Area	Seedlings Planted	Acres Planted	Acres Scarified
Delta	44,100	98	94
Fairbanks	200,000	360	5
Kenai/Kodiak	56,000	206	186
Haines	72,350	550	0
Mat-Su	12,000	20	0
Tok	26,400	40	0
Totals	410,850	1,274	285

Log Brands

Log brands provide a service to the industry by registering a brand that will identify and track ownership of logs as they are transported and sold. This is particularly useful in the event of loss or breakup of a raft during transport.

In 1999, the Division of Forestry registered 37 log brands. Of these, 17 were new and 20 were renewals.

Alaska State Forests

About two percent of Alaska's state-owned land is in two designated state forests. In 1982, the legislature established the 247,000-acre Haines State Forest in the Chilkoot, Chilkat, and Ferebee river drainages. The next year, it created the 1.8-million-acre Tanana Valley State Forest that stretches from Manley to Tok. In addition to these two designated state forests, much of the state's public domain land is available for multiple use, including forest management.

State Forest Management DNR manages the state forests for a sustained yield of many resources. The primary purpose is *the perpetuation of personal, commercial, and other beneficial uses of resources through multiple use management.* (AS 41.17.200). State forests provide fish and wildlife habitat, clean

water, opportunities for recreation and tourism, and minerals. The main difference between state forests and other areas set aside by the legislature is that state forests must also permit timber harvesting for commercial and personal use (AS 38.05.112(c)).

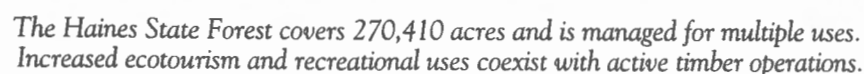
A DNR management plan guides the use of each state forest. Plan guidelines determine how to manage different uses to complement each other. In Haines, since the state forest surrounds the Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve, DNR closely coordinates the forest and preserve plans. In 1996, the division updated the Tanana Valley State Forest Management Plan, which established a citizens' advisory committee representing a variety of public interests.

Haines State Forest
(Mike Curran)



The forest is composed mostly of two forest types -- western hemlock/Sitka spruce, and black cottonwood/willow. Lodgepole pine and paper birch occur as minor species throughout the forest. About 18 percent of the state forest (49,231 acres) is dedicated to timber harvest with an allowable harvest of 6.96 million board feet per year. Although natural regeneration occurs readily, all large commercial sales have been replanted since the 1970s.

Both photographers and hunters pursue the forest's moose, black and brown bears, and mountain goats. Wolves, marten, lynx, wolverine, porcupine, beaver, river otter, and many small mammals live in the forest. Trumpeter swans, geese, ducks, and a variety of song birds are also present. The forest surrounds the 49,000-acre Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve, which is managed by Alaska State Parks.



Tanana Valley State Forest

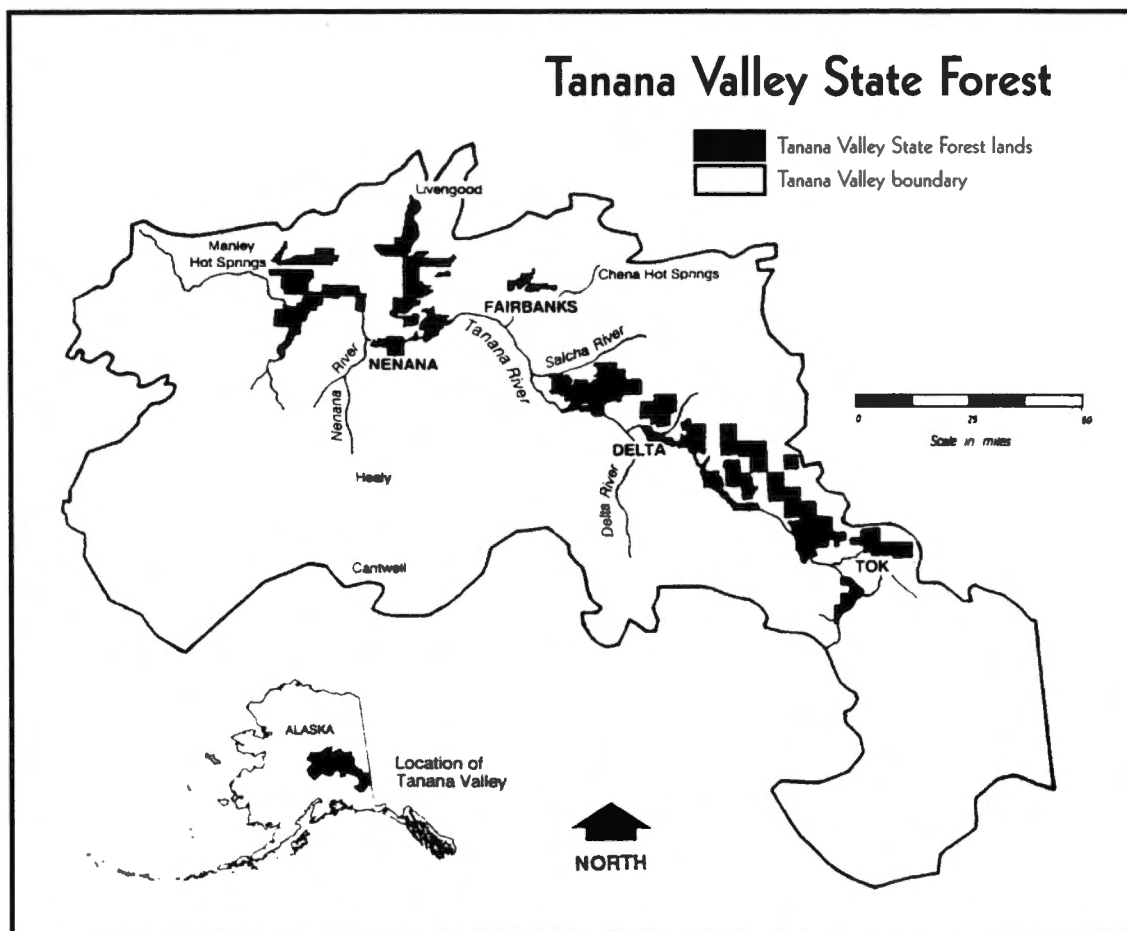
The Tanana Valley State Forest's 1.81 million acres lie almost entirely within the Tanana River Basin, located in the east-central part of Alaska. The forest extends 265 miles, from near the Canadian border to Manley Hot Springs. It varies in elevation from 275 feet along the Tanana River to over 5,000 feet in the Alaska Range. The Tanana River flows for 200 miles through the forest.

Almost 90 percent of the state forest (1.59 million acres) is forested, mostly with paper birch, quaking aspen, balsam poplar, black spruce, white spruce, and tamarack. Half of the Tanana Basin's productive forest land (1.1 million acres) is located within the state forest. About 85 percent of the forest is within 20 miles of a state highway.

The forest is open to mining, gravel extraction, oil and gas leasing, and grazing, although very little is done. Timber production is the major commercial activity. The Bonanza Creek Experimental Forest, a 12,400-acre area dedicated to forestry research, is also located within the state forest.

The Tanana Valley State Forest offers many recreational opportunities including hunting, fishing, trapping, camping, hiking, dog mushing, cross-country skiing, wildlife viewing, snow machining, gold panning, boating, and berry-picking.

A 12-member citizen's advisory committee, representing a variety of state forest users, actively participates in forest planning in the Tanana Basin. The committee makes recommendations on management of the forest and assists with revision of the forest plan.



The Tanana Valley State Forest consists of 1.81 million acres and lies almost entirely within the Tanana River basin. Nearly 90 percent of the area (1.59 million acres) is forested, mainly with paper birch, balsam poplar, black spruce, white spruce, and tamarack.

Forestry Partnerships

Spruce Bark Beetle Task Force

The spread of spruce bark beetles in Alaska, particularly on the Kenai Peninsula, over the last decade has been at unprecedented levels. An estimated 2.3 million acres have been impacted in the last seven years. Due to concerns over the beetle infestation impact on forests, public safety, and the ecosystem, the U.S. Senate Appropriation Committee directed \$500,000 to the Forest Service to establish a task force to develop an action plan to manage infestations and to rehabilitate infested areas.

The Kenai Peninsula Borough was designated as the lead agency and former Borough Mayor Mike Navarre was named Task Force Chair. The task force was composed of 11 representatives from the private sector and six advisory panelists from agencies. Public meetings and three hearings were held to solicit public input. The task force completed its work in the spring of 1998 and developed an action plan with 50 prioritized policy recommendations and budget requirements.

Eight major policy components were identified: forest management, public education, fire protection, risk/hazard assessments, public assistance, science and research, long-term planning, and continuity of efforts. The task force recommended specific actions under each policy area and identified a lead agency with responsibility for implementation and a budget. Based in part on a fire danger and behavior report by the division detailing the increase in fire hazard associated with the beetle-killed trees, priority was placed on fire protection and risk/hazard assessments. The division plays an important role in implementing these recommendations.

Using funds provided by the Forest Service and the Kenai Peninsula Borough, the division completed a number of tasks in 1999 that were recommended by the task force. These accomplishments include:

- Completion, publication, and distribution of 435 copies of the FireWise Community Action Kit through eight fire departments
- Eleven presentations on use of the FireWise kit to community groups, fairs, home shows, and the statewide realtors convention, and promotion through public service announcements and radio programs
- Improvements to the McNeil Canyon Elementary School, located on East End Road in Homer, to allow it to serve as a safe zone in case of a wildfire evacuation
- Preparation of a safe zone around the school in Voznesenka and reduced hazards around the Homer Middle School
- Assistance to local fire departments in increasing use of the Federal Excess Personal Property Program for wildland fire engines and other supplies
- Additional fire training courses for local fire departments in the spring
- Loans of fire equipment to local fire departments and use of state and federal contracts to help purchase fire protection equipment and supplies
- In cooperation with the borough, a contract for a wildfire hazard assessment for the Kenai Peninsula, to be completed in the spring of 2000.

In response to a request by the Kenai Peninsula Borough for funds to implement additional recommendations, Congress appropriated \$2 million to remove and dispose of hazardous trees from state and Native land. The division will be involved in using these funds to remove trees from state lands and as part of a group to identify projects.

Brown Bear Conservation Strategy for the Kenai Peninsula

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) in 1998 listed the Kenai Peninsula brown bear population as a "population of special concern." Biologists believe that Kenai Peninsula bears may be geographically isolated from mainland bears. The population, estimated at 277, is presently stable but the increase in the number of defense of life and property kills, and in human population growth and development may cause the population to decline to non-sustainable levels.

ADF&G organized a stakeholders group that includes those with an interest in hunting, fishing, residential land ownership, native issues, the environment, timber, oil and mining, and tourism, as well as governmental agencies. The group's purpose is to develop a conservation strategy with specific recommendations to help ensure the sustainability of the brown bear population on the Kenai Peninsula. The Department of Natural Resources has a representative, Special Assistant to the Commissioner Patty Bielawski, because of the state's extensive landholding and development interests on the Kenai Peninsula.

The effects of salvage timber sales on brown bears have been a significant issue of concern. Two salvage sales, the Schilter and Dome View, were, or have been, delayed due to concerns that timber harvest and road construction might lead to additional public access and increased encounters between humans and bears, and result in additional bear mortality. Concerns may be lessened by use of temporary and winter-only roads that are closed following harvest operations, and by seasonal restrictions near salmon spawning streams used by feeding bears. Other actions such as rapid reforestation following harvest and the encouragement of hardwood regeneration can have positive benefits for bears and other wildlife. Additional mitigation measures are being investigated. DOF is committed to a salvage timber sale program that will complement efforts to sustain the brown bear population on the Kenai Peninsula.

Ruffed Grouse Habitat Improvement

The Division of Forestry, Department of Fish and Game, and the Ruffed Grouse Society have continued to improve habitat in the Nenana Ridge Ruffed Grouse Project Area. The 6,000-acre area is located in the Tanana Valley State Forest, south of the Parks Highway, between Fairbanks and Nenana. This project provides a unique opportunity for long-term cooperative management by the state's foresters, wildlife biologists, and the Ruffed Grouse Society.

Because of active fire suppression over the last 40 years, there are few young, vigorously growing aspen and birch stands, which are important sources of food and cover for wildlife. Timber harvesting is used to create this type of habitat. In addition to ruffed grouse, the harvesting benefits snowshoe hares, lynx, moose, goshawks, great horned owls, and several species of migratory songbirds that use early to mid-successional habitats.

The Department of Fish and Game allocated \$19,500, appropriated by the Alaska Legislature for wildlife habitat improvement, to the project. The Ruffed Grouse Society also donated money that it raised at its annual banquet in Fairbanks. DOF used the funds to contract with Nip and Tuck Logging to cut 98 acres of aspen on Nenana Ridge in September.

Over the 40-year cycle of the project, 800 acres will be harvested to create habitat for 100 breeding pairs, which will produce 20,800 ruffed grouse and improve conditions for many hunters. The goal for the entire first decade of the project was met in just four years. More than 350 acres of mature aspen have been felled in 30 cutting units, ranging in size from six to twenty acres and 7.5 miles of forest roads have been constructed. DOF and ADF&G completed a 30-acre prescribed burn in the spring to test the feasibility of burning as a management tool.

Forest Health Management

1999 Aerial Survey Results

Aerial detection mapping is done annually to document active forest insect and disease damage. The surveys usually cover about one-third of the forested land in Alaska. Smoke from large wildfires in interior Alaska and poor weather precluded flights into many areas of concern. Even so, approximately 31 million

acres throughout Alaska were surveyed. Insect activity this year impacted the fewest number of recorded acres in over eight years. The most important diseases and declines in Alaska are characterized as chronic conditions and remain relatively unchanged.

Insects and Animal Damage

Continuing a decline in activity first noted in 1997, the total area impacted by **spruce bark beetles** fell again in 1999 to 253,265 acres, a 19 percent decline from 1998 levels. This is a 77 percent decline from 1996 levels when beetle-impacted acres peaked at 1.1 million. Population levels in areas that have recently been heavily impacted, such as the Copper River Valley, the west side of Cook Inlet, the Anchorage Bowl, the northern Kenai Peninsula, the eastern portion of Kachemak Bay and Iliamna Lake have declined dramatically, in some cases to endemic levels. The decline is due to the fact that there are fewer mature spruce left for them to attack in many areas, because so many spruce have already been killed. Some active areas persist, however, where mature spruce remain or where new disturbances encourage growth of spruce beetle populations. Heavy activity continues near Lake Clark along the Tlikakila River and in the Hanagita River Valley in the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve.

Total spruce beetle activity in southeast Alaska decreased from a high of 35,700 acres in 1996 to 6,556 acres in 1999, mostly in the Chilkat and Chilkoot drainages north of Haines. There were 1,424 acres of activity in Glacier Bay National Park east of Gustavus. The infestation on the Taku River near the Canadian border has almost completely collapsed.

Spruce needle aphids occurred on 4,253 acres in southeast Alaska from the southern end of Prince of Wales Island to Tenekee Inlet on Chichagof Island. This was a 90 percent reduction from 1998 acres. Sitka spruce were affected along the beach fringe but not up the slope as in 1998.

Spruce budworm activity decreased in 1999; only 708 acres of white spruce were defoliated compared

to 87,800 acres last year. The budworm outbreak appears to have run its course after five consecutive years of activity.

Willow leaf blotchminer defoliation rose for the second consecutive year; more than 180,396 acres of defoliated willow were detected in 1999 versus 120,000 acres in 1998. Similar to last year, most of the willow defoliation is located in the upper Yukon and Porcupine River valleys.

Acres of aspen affected by **large aspen tortrix** defoliation declined by 41 percent to 13,336 acres, consistent with the cyclic nature of this insect. Tortrix activity was confined almost exclusively to interior Alaska with the exception of a small, but persistent population near Skilak Lake on the Kenai Peninsula.

Larch sawfly continues to be quite active throughout the range of larch in interior Alaska. Defoliation, however, was significantly reduced from 1998 levels. Approximately 190,000 acres of defoliated larch were detected this year, compared to over 400,000 acres of defoliation in 1998. In many of the defoliated areas, patches of larch mortality are beginning to appear; due to the direct effects of the sawfly or to larch beetle attacks on stressed, defoliated trees. The major area of sawfly activity continues to be from the Alaska Range west to the Kuskokwim River. Larch sawfly was detected for the first time south of the Alaska Range in the Mat-Su Valley and Anchorage Bowl defoliating ornamental larch. This was no doubt an accidental introduction.

In southeast Alaska, **hemlock sawfly** defoliation levels decreased from 8,250 acres in 1996 to 89 acres in 1999.

In localized areas of southeast Alaska, porcupines and brown bears continue to cause damage to several conifer species by feeding on the trees.

Diseases

The most important diseases and declines of Alaskan forests were wood decay of live trees, root disease of white spruce, hemlock dwarf mistletoe, and yellow-cedar decline. Except for yellow-cedar decline, trees affected by these diseases are difficult to detect by aerial surveys. Nonetheless, all are chronic factors that significantly influence the commercial value of the timber and alter key ecological processes including forest structure, composition, and succession. Wildlife habitat is enhanced through the development of hollow tree cavities by heart rot fungi, and witches' brooms by hemlock dwarf mistletoe and broom rust fungi.

Hemlock dwarf mistletoe continues to cause growth loss, top-kill, and mortality in old-growth forests; its impact in managed stands depends on the abundance of large infected trees remaining on site after harvesting. Approximately 477,000 acres of **yellow-cedar decline** have been mapped across an extensive portion of southeast Alaska. Snags of yellow-cedar accumulate on affected sites and forest composition is substantially altered as the yellow-cedar die, giving way to other tree species. Salvage opportunities are now being recognized for this

valuable resource. In southeast Alaska, approximately one-third of the gross volume of forests is defective due to **stem** and **butt rot fungi**.

In southcentral and interior Alaska, **tomentosus root rot** continues to cause growth loss and mortality of white spruce in all age classes. Stem, butt, and root rot fungi cause considerable defect in white spruce, paper birch, and aspen stands. Saprophytic decay of spruce bark beetle-killed trees, primarily caused by the **red belt fungus**, continues to rapidly develop and degrade dead spruce trees.

Spruce needle rust occurred at high levels in several areas of southeast Alaska and endemic levels across southcentral Alaska. **Willow rust** occurred at moderate levels in interior Alaska in 1999. Acres reported by aerial survey observers for the rust fungi are considered conservative because the foliar discoloration used to diagnose the rust appears most pronounced on trees several weeks later than the survey flights. Cone and other foliar diseases of conifers were generally at low levels throughout Alaska in 1999. Canker fungi were at endemic levels, causing substantial, but unmeasured, damage to hardwood species in southcentral and interior Alaska.

Statewide Aerial Surveys

US Forest Service and Division of Forestry entomologists conduct annual aerial mapping to document areas where forest damage is occurring, that is, areas with current defoliation or recently killed trees. Trained observers in fixed-wing aircraft prepare a set of sketch maps depicting the extent of various types of forest damage including recent bark beetle mortality, defoliation, and abiotic damage such as yellow-cedar decline. Flooding, wind damage, and landslides are also noted. The extent of some significant diseases, such as stem and root decays, are not included since this damage is not visible from aerial surveys.

DOF and US Forest Service entomologists question state and federal agencies and other landowners to determine the high priority areas for mapping each year. In addition, they map some areas over several years to establish year-to-year trends.

Forest damage information is sketched onto 1:250,000 scale USGS quadrangle maps at a relatively small scale (one inch would equal about eight miles on the ground). Larger scale maps are sometimes used for specific areas to provide more detailed assessments when specialized surveys are requested. The sketch map information is later digitized and computerized in a Geographic Information System for permanent storage and to allow retrieval by a number of users.

Due to the short Alaska summers, long distances, high airplane rental costs, and the short time frame when common pest damage is most evident (usually July and August), mappers must strike a balance to cover the highest priority areas with available personnel and funding.

1999 Forest Insect and Disease Activity

The figures below are from *Forest Insect and Disease Conditions in Alaska - 1999*, prepared by the U.S. Forest Service, State and Private Forestry, Forest Health Management, Region 10 Alaska. The number of acres are estimates based on surveys of about 20 percent of Alaska's forested land.

The figures do not give the total accumulated pest damage over a span of years, but report visible, new pest activity for the current year. Some damage is not immediately apparent or the cause cannot be

determined from the air. For example, spruce bark beetle damage is not visible from the air until the foliage turns red.

Compare aerial survey acreage figures with other information, such as previous years' condition reports and on-the-ground surveys, for the most reliable picture of damage severity and trends. More information is available from entomologists at the Division of Forestry (269-8460) or the U.S. Forest Service (271-2575).

Damage Agent ¹	State & Private	National Forest	Other Federal	Native Corporation	Total 1999	Difference from 1998
Willow defoliation	19,360	0	72,595	88,441	180,396	+57,326
Larch beetle	20,256	0	3,265	6,795	30,316	+30,316
Yellow-cedar decline ²	23,563	449,395	323	20,462	493,743	+14,661
Birch defoliation	324	0	2,421	8	2,753	2,720
Water damage	617	119	1,518	318	2,572	+1,742
Porcupine damage	0	327	0	18	345	+265
Hemlock canker	0	0	0	257	257	+257
Blowdown/Windthrow	18	264	114	0	396	+246
Willow rust	309	0	17	207	533	-7
Landslide damage	3	61	11	0	75	-145
Cottonwood defoliation	1,745	0	1,744	2,101	5,590	-1,020
Hemlock sawfly	18	71	0	0	89	-3,841
IPS engraver	226	0	347	697	1,270	-8,030
Large aspen tortrix	4,973	0	3,975	4,388	13,336	-8,494
Engravers/Spruce beetle	833	0	865	810	2,508	-10,662
Spruce needle aphid	1,212	2,653	321	67	4,253	-42,087
Spruce beetle	110,845	6,415	113,614	22,391	253,265	-63,535
Spruce budworm	570	0	0	139	708	-87,092
Larch sawfly	12,626	0	134,234	12,400	159,260	-302,520
Total Acres	197,498	459,305	335,364	159,499	1,151,865	-419,900

¹ Table entries do not include many of the most destructive diseases (e.g., wood decays and dwarf mistletoe) because these losses are not detectable in aerial surveys.

² Value of yellow-cedar decline is not restricted to the acreage with a high concentration of dying trees for this year; it represents stands that generally have long-dead trees, recently-dead trees, dying trees, and some healthy trees.

Forest Insect Activity 1994 - 1999

This chart shows damage by year from 1994 through 1999 and cumulative acreage figures for that period. The cumulative total is the number of newly infested acres from 1994 to 1999, not the sum of infested acres each year. The same stand may have had an active infestation for several years.

Totals do not include diseases or other damage such as cedar decline or blow-down. Acreage is in thousands of acres (move decimal three spaces to the right for actual number, e.g., 2.2 is 2,200).

Damage Agent	1994 Total	1995 Total	1996 Total	1997 Total	1998 Total	1999 Total	Cumulative Totals ¹
Spruce beetle	610.2	893.9	1,133.0	563.7	316.8	253.3	2,195.7
Larch sawfly	0.3	116.9	606.9	267.6	461.8	159.3	1,485.7
Spruce budworm	232.1	279.3	235.9	38.4	87.8	0.7	577.6
Willow defoliation	12.5	5.6	50.1	3.5	123.1	180.4	350.5
Black-headed budworm	188.1	13.0	1.2	30.8	--	--	233.4
Large aspen tortrix	9.2	32.4	6.4	5.1	21.8	13.3	84.8
Engravers/spruce beetle ²	22.5	5.6	13.9	8.8	13.2	3.9	72.9
Spruce needle aphid	1.5	0.1	0.5	24.8	46.4	4.3	52.1
Hemlock sawfly	3.0	1.1	8.3	6.6	3.9	--	22.8
Cottonwood defoliation	3.8	3.5	5.4	3.0	6.6	5.6	20.7
Birch defoliation	—	0.9	3.2	5.4	0.1	2.8	12.2
Total thousands acres	1,083.2	1,352.3	2,064.8	957.7	1,081.5	623.6	5,108.4

¹ The same stand can have an active infestation for several years. The cumulative total is a union of all areas for 1994 through 1999.

² These tallies represent polygons coded to *ipb* (*ips* and spruce beetle combination) and polygons coded only to *ips*.

Insect and Disease Information Online

For information on forest health and forest insect surveys, and links to other types of forest health information, visit

www.dnr.state.ak.us:80/forestry/web_bugs.htm

Visit the US Forest Service, State & Private Forestry home page for addresses of federal entomologists and plant pathologists, current forest insect and disease condition reports (aerial and ground survey data), lists of forest health research and publications,

and a bibliography of Alaska forest health management publications. The address is

www.alaska.net/~cnfspf/fhpr10.htm

Data and map information requests: To request maps or other products from statewide surveys and GIS databases, contact Roger Burnside, Alaska Division of Forestry, 550 W. Seventh Avenue, Suite 1450, Anchorage, AK 99501-3566; phone: (907) 269-8460; fax: (907) 269-8902; email: roger_burnside@dnr.state.ak.us

Urban & Community Forestry

Urban forestry is the comprehensive management of forests and related natural resources in communities. The Urban & Community Forestry (UCF) Program helps local communities expand and care for these valuable resources. The program:

- provides information and training in retaining, planting, and caring for trees and forests
- helps local governments develop and fund ongoing community forest management programs

- encourages the private sector to support and fund community forestry efforts
- develops local partnerships and supports volunteer efforts
- administers federal grants for pilot programs and demonstration projects

The Alaska Urban & Community Forest Council, a 15-member, nonprofit, citizen advisory group, provides support and advice on development and delivery of the program statewide. Members are listed on page 50.

1999 Highlights

- UCF staff contributed to development of the Municipality of Anchorage's comprehensive 20-year plan, encouraging management of trees and forests.
- Staff continued to support TREEmendous Anchorage, a program sponsored by the Mayor's Office to protect, improve, plant, and educate the public about trees. TREEmendous Anchorage, with funding from ARCO Alaska, produced and distributed a brochure on tree planting and care, and sponsored a tree adoption in which 1,000 families each received a tree.
- Program staff met with citizens and government leaders in Angoon, Seward, Juneau, and Anchorage to promote development of a community forest management program.
- Matanuska Electric became Alaska's first utility company to meet the standards of Tree Line USA. Chugach Electric submitted an application in December and will be recognized in 2000.
- Work began on the Pacific Northwest Community Trees Conference, which will be held in Anchorage in May 2000. This will be the first regional community forestry conference to be hosted by Alaska.
- Six Alaskans passed the ISA Certified Arborist exam, bringing the total number in the state to 23. In addition, a Chugach Electric employee became the state's first Certified Utility Arborist.
- Cass Turnbull of PlantAmnesty made presentations and led hands-on workshops on pruning for 217 people in Juneau, Anchorage, and Fairbanks. Attendees included city and state park staff, landscape architects, groundskeepers, utility company employees, certified arborists, and homeowners.



Volunteer Larry Hartig gives away one of the 1,000 trees distributed through the TREEmendous Anchorage tree adoption. ARCO Alaska donated the trees and sponsored the event held in May in the ARCO atrium. (Jill Shepherd)

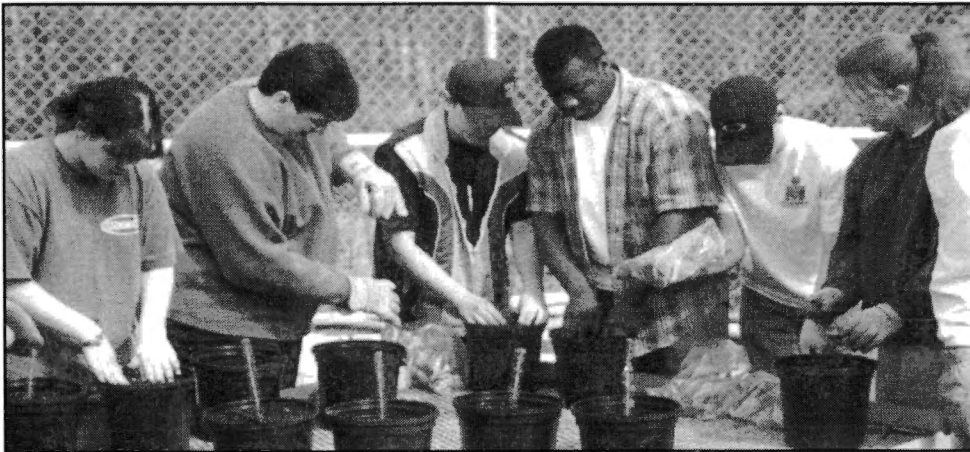
- Program staff made presentations at 20 events attended by 300 people. Groups included Master Gardeners, community schools, professional organizations, and the Department of Transportation.
- Staff revised and reprinted "Plant a Tree: Alaska's Guide to Tree Selection, Planting, and Care." The 22-page publication was mailed to 1,000 businesses and organizations statewide and distributed at conferences and other public events.
- The Alaska Urban & Community Forest Council remained an active supporter of community forestry throughout the state. The council met four times and, during a two-day meeting in August, visited state grant-funded project sites. The council used

a National Tree Trust grant to plant government groves in Anchorage, Petersburg, and Palmer. Members involved volunteers and local government officials in planting a total of 42 trees.

- Eleven Arbor Day grants were awarded in ten communities. Communities matched the \$11,662 in grants with \$16,655 in local contributions, held Arbor Day events, and planted 178 trees and 38

shrubs. In addition, the program planted 500 seedlings, 45 trees, and 15 shrubs at schools and in parks.

- Alaska participated, for the first time, in the National Tree Trust Community Tree Planting Program. Volunteers and staff potted and maintained 3,174 white spruce seedlings. The seedlings will be planted in 2000 in Anchorage and the Mat-Su Valley.



Students from Mike Woods' Natural Resources Management class at King Career Center in Anchorage pot spruce seedlings. The seedlings are from the National Tree Trust. (Patricia Joyner)

Project Learning Tree

Project Learning Tree is an environmental education program designed by and for educators. PLT's elementary and secondary curricula use trees and forests as a context for understanding the environment. PLT's activities can be applied in many educational situations, from classrooms and nature centers to museums, scout troops, and child care centers.

During 1999, PLT in cooperation with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, developed a correlation guide that aligns its activities to the Alaska Department of Education's State Content Standards. This project, funded by the Environmental Protection Agency's Environmental Education Training and Partnership Program, provides a means for Alaskan educators to integrate PLT activities into language arts, science, math, social studies and art. Alaska Correlations is available for all educators who have completed a Project Learning Tree or Project WILD workshop in the past five years and it will be given to workshop participants in the coming year. In addition, Alaska Correlations will be avail-

able on both the Division of Forestry and Alaska Department of Fish and Game web sites.

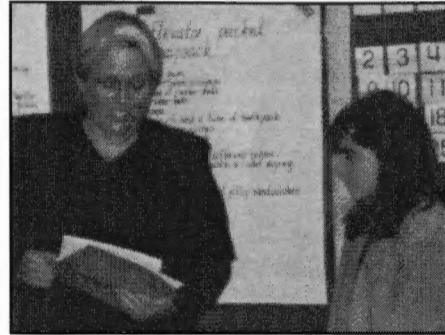
During 1999, facilitators introduced 68 participants representing 15 communities to PLT in six, day-long workshops. Two of these workshops focused on PLT's new secondary level modules. In conjunction with Project Wild, three graduate credit courses were offered—two in Fairbanks and one in Anchorage with a total of 21 participants. In addition, PLT activities were used with 250 students and adults in a variety of settings, ranging from Arbor Day activities with the Boys and Girls Club to the Anchorage Schools' Outdoor Week. PLT provided a program display at six statewide events and conferences.

In Alaska, the Division of Forestry, Alaska Forest Association, and US Forest Service Natural Resources Conservation Education Program fund Project Learning Tree. Other sponsors include the Alaska Cooperative Extension, Alaska Department of Education, Alaska Natural Resource and Outdoor Education Association, and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game Division of Wildlife Conservation.

Arbor Day

Arbor Day was celebrated with tree plantings in communities across the state. Governor Knowles issued a proclamation for Arbor Day citing the many benefits of trees. Kenai foresters participated in a community tree-planting program at the Homer Demonstration Forest as well as other community tree plantings. Fairbanks foresters attended celebrations at Ryan Jr. High, Lathrop High, and Snedden Memorial Park. The Fairbanks Governor's Office, North Star Borough Mayor, and Fairbanks City Mayor participated in the Snedden park plantings and the subsequent neighborhood cookout. Chugach Electric sponsored a tree planting at Lake Otis Elementary School in Anchorage to promote "planting the right tree in the right place," especially near utility lines.

Dina Rachel Paoletti, a fifth grade student at Finger Lake Elementary School in Palmer, was the Alaska state winner of the Arbor Day National Poster Contest.



Fifth grade student Dina Rachel Paoletti received her Arbor Day National Poster Contest award from Dean Brown, Deputy State Forester. (Emily Forstner)

Her teacher, Emily Forstner, arranged for Dina to receive her \$100 saving bond, the book "The Man Who Planted Trees," and a copy of her poster at an open house. Tanya Stowell from Wasilla was the second place state winner and Ashlee Park, also from Wasilla, was the third place winner.

Forest Stewardship Program

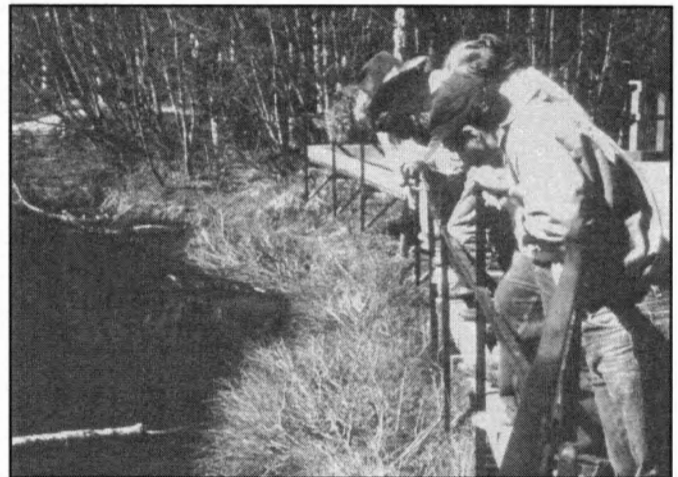
The Forest Stewardship Program is a federally-funded program administered by the Division of Forestry. The goals are to help non-industrial private forest owners develop 10-year management plans and to support implementation of approved management practices.

1999 Highlights

- Fifty-one Alaska landowners prepared and signed Forest Stewardship Plans that cover 4,991 acres
- Two Alaska native corporations completed Forest Stewardship Plans for their lands
- A new effort to assist landowners in heavily used watersheds will contribute to the nationwide Clean Water Action Plan
- Staff facilitated the purchase and distribution of 11,000 tree seedlings to private landowners
- The program coordinator joined the Western States Forest Stewardship Committee

Stewardship Landowners

Participation in the Forest Stewardship Program continued to increase in 1999. Since the program began in 1992, a total of 309 stewardship plans have been



Forest Stewardship Committee viewing watershed rehabilitation project on Campbell Creek in Anchorage. (Jeff Graham)

developed for individual landowners covering 24,772 acres. Participation is greatest on the Kenai Peninsula, followed by the Matanuska-Susitna and Tanana valleys. The most common management concern continues to be forest health. There are many requests for information on options for dealing with threatened or beetle-killed spruce. Many other participating landowners have strong interests in aesthetics and wildlife.

Cost-share Programs

The Forest Stewardship Program helps implement approved management practices through the Stewardship Incentive Program (SIP) and Forestry Incentive Program (FIP). Under these federal programs, the USDA can cost-share up to 75 percent of the cost of the management practice. There were no new funds for SIP in 1999 so assistance was limited to completing ongoing projects. FIP funding was \$5,500 statewide. Requests for cost-share assistance were high in 1999, with the most common request being to remedy spruce beetle kill. States throughout the U.S. are seeking alternatives to private forestry cost-share programs.

Native Corporation Grants

Native corporations and reservations are the largest private landowners in Alaska, and providing grants to them for forest planning is an important part of the Forest Stewardship Program. Two corporations, Toghotele and Kinkatnu, completed plans in 1999, bringing the total of Alaska Native corporations with Forest Stewardship Plans to 11. Planning projects supported by Stewardship Program grants are underway with four other Native corporations. Assistance to Native corporations and reservations will continue in 2000.

Other Landowner Assistance

During 1999, Forest Stewardship Program personnel assisted the Kenai Peninsula Global ReLeaf with growing and distributing seedlings for private landowners in southcentral Alaska. Staff helped organize a private forest landowner seminar sponsored by the American Forest Foundation's Tree Farm Program. Staff made site visits and referrals to numerous landowners, in addition to those who pursued written plans, and provided services to local governments, public schools, and at community fairs.

Forest Stewardship Committee

The Forest Stewardship Program receives guidance from the Alaska Stewardship Coordinating Committee. The committee, comprised of representatives from a broad range of interests, met twice in 1999. One meeting was a field trip to review watershed rehabilitation projects around Anchorage. Forest Stewardship Committee members are listed on page 50.

Wildland Fire Management

The Division of Forestry, Bureau of Land Management, and U.S. Forest Service are responsible for wildland fire suppression in Alaska. Each agency protects specific geographic areas under cooperative agreements. The state thus avoids duplication of fire protection resources and efforts, realizes substantial savings, and provides for the most efficient fire response.

Alaska is the only state with an interagency fire management plan. The plan divides the state's land base into fire protection levels based on major natural fire breaks and the management objectives of land owners and managers. Firefighting resources can thus be allocated to the highest priority areas -- those areas where communities and valuable resources are located. It also gives options for lower cost strategies in remote and unpopulated areas.

Fire Protection Levels

Critical Protection: Areas where life and property are present receive immediate and aggressive suppression efforts.

Full Protection: Areas with high value resources where fire may adversely impact resource management objectives also receive immediate suppression efforts.

Modified Action: Areas with high value resources where land managers may consider the trade-off of acres burned versus suppression costs. Fires are attacked immediately but land managers guide the suppression effort.

Limited Action: Areas where fire is beneficial or benign, or fire fighting costs are greater than fire damage. Fires are monitored but no suppression action is taken except to prevent the fire from burning onto higher value land.

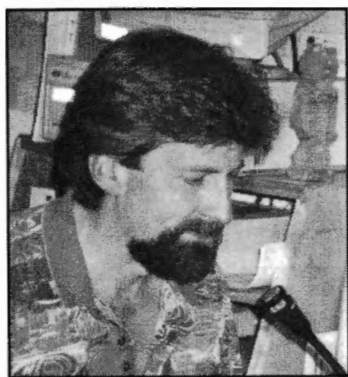


1999 Fire Season

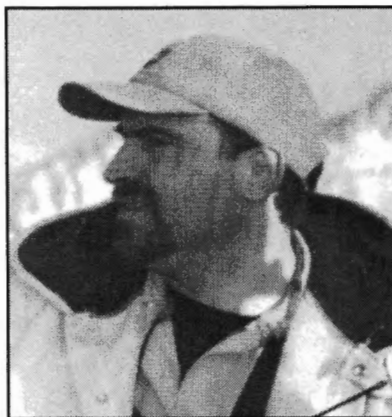
This was the fifth fire season since the Alaska Fire Management Plan took effect in 1982 in which more than one million acres burned in wildland fires; the other years were 1988, 1990, 1991, and 1997. In state protected areas this season, 333 fires burned approximately 145,800 acres; 140 wildland fires burned about 860,000 acres under Alaska Fire Service protection; and 13 fires burned 20 acres under US Forest Service protection.

An increase in the number and intensity of wildland/urban interface fires was noted.

Fire activity began on March 13 when a small wildland fire in the Fairbanks area was started from a slash burn. There were 38 fires reported in April, 117 in May, 181 in June, 127 in July, 10 in August, and 12 in September for a total of 486 fires. On May 21 the first lightning-caused fire was reported. Lightning caused 151 fires, which burned 990,000 acres statewide. A total of 1,005,428 acres burned during the fire season.

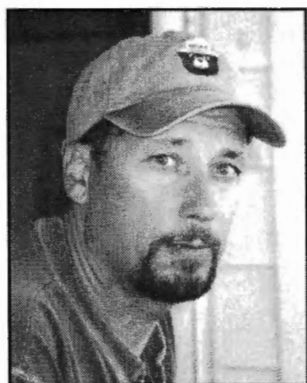


Mike Roos,
Delta Area
and now
South Zone
Dispatcher
(Dean Brown)

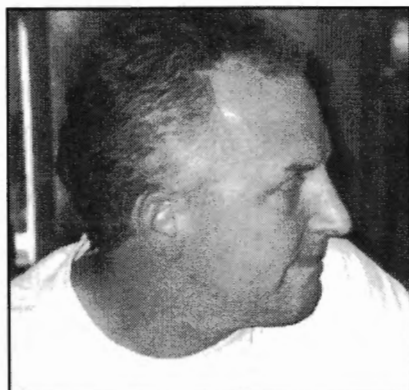


Tom Dean,
Mat-Su Area
Suppression
Foreman
(Dean Brown)

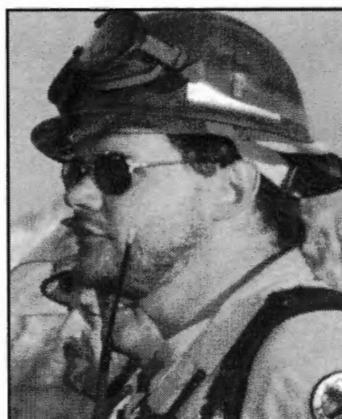
Rich Webster,
Copper River
Area
(Dean Brown)



"Reb" Ferguson, Delta Area (Dean Brown)



Tom Kurth,
Fairbanks
Area Fire
Management
Officer
(Dean Brown)



Tom Greiling,
Mat-Su Area
Initial Attack
(Dean Brown)

1999 Fire Statistics

Statewide Statistics

Year	Fires	Acres Burned
1995	421	43,945.8
1996	724	599,197.1
1997	716	2,026,899.3
1998	413	119,899.8
1999	486	1,005,428.0

Emergency Out-of-State Crew Use

Number of 20-person crews sent outside of Alaska to fight fires. Wages are paid by other states or suppression agencies.

Year	Crews	Year	Crews
1990	7	1995	1
1991	0	1996	59
1992	5	1997	0
1993	0	1998	2
1994	83	1999	11

Fire Activity by Landowner

Landowner	Fires	Acres
Bureau of Land Mgmt.	38	270,222.0
State	97	255,867.8
Fish & Wildlife Service	31	165,049.8
National Park Service	13	162,679.0
Native Claims Act Lands	45	132,871.7
Military	9	16,359.1
Private	216	1,452.5
Bureau of Indian Affairs	5	786.8
City/Borough	25	132.6
USDA Forest Service	7	6.7
Total	486	1,005,428.0

Emergency Firefighter Wages

Year	State	Federal	Total
1990	7,398,211	5,765,547	13,163,758
1991	5,344,384	3,741,521	9,085,905
1992	786,747	612,048	1,398,795
1993	3,699,629	580,866	4,280,495
1994	5,952,942	3,654,245	9,607,187
1995	904,492	207,958	1,112,450
1996	6,778,022	4,273,774	11,051,796
1997	3,869,912	1,485,846	5,355,758
1998	2,734,442	1,897,356	4,631,798
1999	2,873,600	2,301,122	5,174,722
Total	\$40,342,381	\$24,520,283	\$64,862,664

Causes of Fires on State-Protected Land

Cause	Number	Acres
Lightning	31	144,750.7
Land clearing	24	626.4
Other causes	48	145.0
Slash burning	32	108.9
Children	31	108.4
Powerlines	22	29.2
Camp fires	42	8.9
Field burning	12	8.0
Trash burning	28	5.1
Arson-related	16	5.0
Burning buildings	20	4.3
Exhaust	3	2.4
Smoking	8	1.4
Vehicles	8	1.0
Logging	2	0.2
Fireworks	6	0.7
Total	333	145,805.6

1999 Fires by Area and Protection Level

State Protected Areas

Area	Critical		Full		Modified		Limited		Total	
	No.	Acres	No.	Acres	No.	Acres	No.	Acres	No.	Acres
Anch/Mat-Su	96	553.9	9	103.2	1	124.0	0	0	106	781.1
Copper River	2	104.1	15	3.1	3	0.3	0	0	20	107.5
Delta	12	4.1	6	9.3	0	0	0	0	18	13.4
Fairbanks	94	58.7	19	1,242.2	2	10.0	3	4,895.3	118	6,206.2
Haines	2	0.2	2	0.2	0	0	0	0	4	0.4
Kenai/Kodiak	33	95.6	12	3.3	0	0	0	0	45	98.9
Southwest	1	0.2	2	0.6	1	641.0	1	2.0	5	643.8
Tok	6	0.6	3	0.5	2	42,765.0	6	95,188.2	17	137,954.3
Totals	246	817.4	68	1,362.4	9	43,540.3	10	100,085.5	333	145,805.6

USDA Forest Service Protected Areas

Area	Critical		Full		Modified		Limited		Total	
	No.	Acres	No.	Acres	No.	Acres	No.	Acres	No.	Acres
Chugach N.F.	6	10.7	5	6.7	0	0	0	0	11	17.4
Tongass N.F.	0	0	8	0	1	0.1	1	2.0	2	2.1
Totals	6	10.7	5	6.7	1	0.1	1	2.0	13	19.5

BLM Alaska Fire Service Protected Areas

Zone	Critical		Full		Modified		Limited		Unplanned		Total	
	No.	Acres	No.	Acres	No.	Acres	No.	Acres	No.	Acres	No.	Acres
Galena	3	106.0	11	33,443.8	7	5,708.0	13	69,964.0	0	0	34	109,221.8
Military	0	305.0	5	18,701.1	0	0	2	493.8	2	12.2	9	19,512.1
Tanana	1	1,540.0	4	2,986.3	12	571.3	40	133,982.5	0	0	57	139,080.1
Upper Yukon	4	4.3	2	134.3	1	34,680.3	32	553,223.0	1	3,747.0	40	591,788.9
Totals	8	1,955.3	22	55,265.5	20	40,959.6	87	757,663.3	3	3,759.2	140	859,602.9

Statewide Totals by Protection Level

Critical		Full		Modified		Limited		Unplanned		Total	
No.	Ac.	No.	Ac.	No.	Ac.	No.	Acres	No.	Acres	No.	Acres
260	95	30	98	3	486	2,783.4	56,634.6	84,500.0	857,750.8	3,759.2	1,005,428.0

Interagency Incident Management Team Activity

Type I or Type II Interagency Incident Management Teams were assigned to three fires in Alaska this year.

1. The Eklutna Fire, one of the two wildland/urban interface fires that started on May 18, began on private land north of Anchorage during land clearing. It eventually burned 383 acres of private, Native corporation, and military land in areas designated for critical and full protection. An Interagency Type II team was assigned and the fire was declared out on June 22.
2. The Donnelly Flats Fire, south of Delta Junction, started June 11 on military land in a full protection area. It was initially attacked by Delta Area Forestry forces and smokejumpers. An Interagency Type II team was ordered the same day. Fire behavior was extreme when the team arrived late on June 12. On June 13, with winds gusting to 50 mph, the fire moved across fuel breaks and burned around Fort Greely. The military base and parts of Delta Junction were

evacuated. Alaska's Type I Interagency Incident Management Team assumed command of the fire organization on June 14. On June 22 the fire was 92 percent contained; the remaining line was unsafe for staff because it was in a military impact area. A Type III organization assumed operation of the fire from June 22 until July 4 when the fire was demobilized. The fire was monitored from that point on and declared out on September 23. It burned 18,720 acres

3. The Minto Fire was reported to have spread from the dump into the wildland on June 13. It was initially attacked by smokejumpers. By that evening, the wind had spread the fire to 300 acres and a Lower 48 Type II team that was on standby in Alaska was assigned to the fire, which was contained on June 24. The Minto Fire burned a total of 3,876 acres of Native corporation lands and allotments in full and critical protection areas. It was declared out on September 21.

Significant State Fires

The Helmaur Fire, located in the Mat-Su area, ignited on May 18 when high winds caused a burn pile to re-ignite and move into a grassy area near Clark-Wolverine Road. Residents were evacuated and the Alaska State Troopers closed access for safety reasons for a short period. The value of structures and land in the immediate area was estimated to be \$830,000 and the estimated values at risk on the north side of Clark Road were \$6.1 million. Aggressive initial attack efforts by local Forestry, structure, and volunteer firefighters managed to adequately surround the fire. Thus a Type II team, which had been ordered, was not needed. Staff provided defensible space training and safety information to local homeowners. On June 21 the fire was declared out.

On June 4, the Mansfield Avenue Fire in Homer started from an escaped slash burn. The Homer and Kachemak Bay fire departments, Kenai-Kodiak Area personnel, and the Alaska Fire Service responded.

One trailer and two outbuildings were lost but 20 homes were saved. The fire burned 75 acres.

On June 13, a power line ignited the Apple Farm Fire near Chena Hot Springs Road, just north of Fairbanks. Fairbanks Area Forestry, the Steese and North Star fire departments, and smokejumpers responded. Retardant and Type II crews were ordered. Structures were threatened but none lost. The fire was contained on June 16 and declared out on June 24.

Two human-caused wildland urban interface fires in the Fairbanks area kept local firefighters busy. The Roland Road Fire, near Chena Pump Road, and the Fort Wainwright Fire, near Shannon Park subdivision, were aggressively attacked and contained at less than 20 acres.

The Maguire Creek Fire burned 124 acres on state land in the Mat-Su area. The fire burned from July 5 to August 13 near a major Chugach Electric transmission line.

Significant Alaska Fire Service Fires

The Kink Fire, north of Chicken, began June 12 and burned 92,010 acres of BLM and state land in a limited protection area. The fire was staffed to protect historical sites, cabins, and allotments. Residents of Chicken were advised of a potential threat and a contingency plan was made to protect structures in and near Chicken.

The Marshall Fire near Rampart, discovered July 2, burned a total of 21,643 acres on state, BLM, Native

corporation, and Native allotment land. Suppression actions were taken to protect Native allotments.

The Pitchuk Lake Fire near Bettles was ignited by lightning on July 12 and burned 120 acres on Native corporation land. The fire was declared out on July 19.

The largest fire of the season was the Kevinjik Fire that began on US Fish and Wildlife Service land in the Yukon Flats. It burned 233,000 acres on BLM, F&WS, Native corporation lands, and allotments.

Lower 48 and Alaska Share Firefighting Resources

In 1999, 369 individuals, six hotshot crews, two air tankers, one lead plane, two smokejumper airplanes, and an infrared aircraft were brought in from the Lower 48 to assist state and federal firefighters.

DOF provided many resources and 107 employees to agencies throughout the U.S. in 1999. In the West, employees were assigned to fires in Nevada, California, Utah, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Oregon, and Washington. In the South, personnel supported wildfire efforts in Florida, North Carolina, Texas, and Georgia. State employees also assisted FEMA with relief efforts after Hurricane Floyd. The Tazlina Hotshot Crew was assigned to fires in California,

Washington, Idaho, Utah, and Nevada for more than two months.

DOF sent four 20-person emergency fire fighting crews to California and provided the contract DC-7 air tanker and an air attack airplane to Nevada. The first state firefighter was dispatched to a fire in Florida on May 26. The last firefighter returned from the Lower 48 in December, a span of seven months of continuous support.

Federal agencies in Alaska provided three hotshot crews, seven hand crews, 184 other employees, airplanes, and helicopters to Lower 48 fires.



Delta Area is prepared for fire. (Dean Brown)

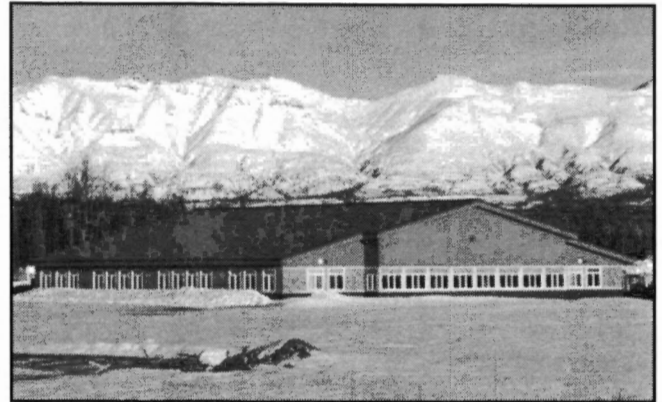
Fire Program Implementation

Palmer Consolidated Fire Facility

Forestry will begin the new millennium positioned for more efficient and cost effective fire fighting in a new \$6 million facility built at the Palmer airport. The move consolidates the Eagle River warehouse, the Big Lake Area office and initial fire attack, the Anchorage fire coordination center (south zone) and the Palmer airbase. The new facility is located on 14 acres adjacent to a 6,000-foot runway.

In 1996, Representative Scott Ogan introduced legislation to build the facility, which was passed unanimously by the State House and Senate. A lease finance arrangement between the City of Palmer and the Division of Forestry resulted in the successful sale of bonds in 1997 to generate funding through Certificates of Participation. The two-year process involved Palmer Mayor Guinotte, City Manager Tom Healy, former City Managers Tom Smith and Dave Soulak, Senator Jalmar Kertulla, the Alaska Fire Chiefs Association, and the Alaska Federation of Natives. State Forester Tom Boutin's past experience working for the Department of Revenue was invaluable in completing the financing.

The Miller's Reach Fire, Alaska's largest wildland/urban fire, demonstrated the need for a consolidated facility located on an airport that allows for quick response. This facility provides wildland fire fighting support to 108 million acres in southcentral and southwestern Alaska – roughly 30 percent of the state. The facility provides:



The new Administration Building houses administration, the Mat-Su Area Office, Coastal Region, fire management, logistics/dispatch, and Forest Stewardship. (Dean Brown)

- a dispatch/logistics office to coordinate delivery of supplies, equipment, and personnel;
- a warehouse for fire supplies and their rapid distribution to remote locations via the road system or air cargo;
- the Mat-Su/Southwest Area Office with a better location for the public;
- a base for fire fighting trucks and aircraft; and
- a retardant site and hangar for air attack and retardant planes.

The administration building was completed and occupied by the Mat-Su/Southwest Area Office in December. Completion of the hangar, warehouse, and paving is expected by summer 2000. Further funding is needed for public and employee parking, paved access for fire trucks and delivery vans, landscaping, and fencing.

Statewide Prevention

The Division of Forestry has a strong fire prevention and enforcement program that strives to raise public awareness of the need to follow safe burning practices. Humans cause 83 percent of fires within the state's protection area, most often in populated areas. Because of the immediate threat to human life, these are the most critical fires to stop with initial attack. As urban areas expand into the wildland, the number of such fires increases. Fire prevention education is the most effective tool for decreasing these numbers.

Permits for burning are required May 1 through September 30. The division issues over 5,000 permits annually, at no charge. In 1999, there were

15,000 active permits. Many permits are good for a three-year period. To improve service to the public, many burn permits are issued by local fire departments and, in some cases, over the Internet. Issuing burn permits allows DOF to educate the public on a one-to-one basis about safe burning practices, an effective means of reducing the number of human-caused fires and expensive false alarms.

The division also promotes fire prevention through workshops and school programs. DOF offers programs in 90 elementary schools for more than 6,000 students each year. This presents quite a challenge during May when most programs and also the most human-caused fires take place.

All area offices offer information and workshops on defensible space, encouraging homeowners to take responsibility for making their homes as safe from fires as possible. The Tok area, as an example of its effective interaction with homeowners, has a database inventory and pictures of each structure in its protection area.

Grants To Rural Communities

The Division of Forestry administers Rural Community Fire Protection (RCFP) grants from the U.S. Forest Service. Volunteer fire departments serving communities with populations of less than 10,000 may apply for grants of up to \$5,000 on a 50/50 cost share basis to organize, train, and equip fire protection units.

The division received 39 applications in 1999, requesting a total of \$151,760. The division approved 12 grants to fund training and to purchase pumps, radios, protective clothing, fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, fire tools, and other supplies. Three of the grantees had not received a RCFP grant in the past.

In addition to the grants, the division issued fire stores and equipment valued at over \$250,000 to volunteer fire departments.

State Fire Warehouse

The State Fire Warehouse system supplied over 130 fires statewide. It assisted the Bureau of Land Management in supporting one Type I incident and two Type II incidents. Warehouse staff moved more than one million pounds of fire support items with a value of over \$2.5 million. The warehouse catalog of fire supplies and equipment lists over 1,100 items, with a total value of \$6.9 million.

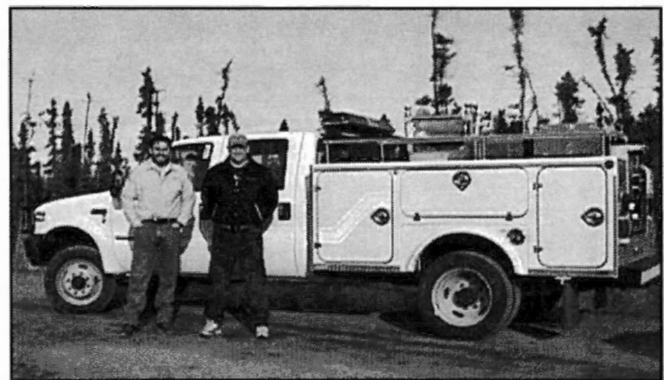
Fire Engine Replacement

Forestry began the process of replacing older "Type 6" fire engines and received the first six new engines. These vehicles will replace units that have been in service for an average of ten years. Scott Christy worked with area representatives as they determined needs and a schedule that will gradually replace all the fire engines. Three of the new engines will be assigned to the Kenai/ Kodiak Area while one each will go to the Fairbanks, Mat-Su and Valdez-Copper River areas.

In 1999, the division issued 125 written warnings and 18 citations, collecting a total of \$27,773 in fines and restitution. While enforcement action is the last resort in any prevention program, it is a strong deterrent and receives a good deal of local publicity.

Volunteer Fire Dept.	Grant
Kwethluk VFD	\$5,000
Ambler VFD	5,000
Bayside VFD	2,500
Greater Palmer VFD	5,000
Unalaska VFD	1,500
Glennallen VFD	4,869
Haines VFD	1,400
Meadow Lakes VFD	5,000
McKinley Village VFD	1,550
Houston VFD	5,000
Gustavus VFD	1,500
Wrangell VFD	3,775
TOTAL	\$42,094

The main warehouse is located in Fairbanks. There is also a supply facility in Eagle River (which will move to Palmer in early 2000), and area caches in Delta Junction, Tok, Tazlina, Big Lake, Soldotna, McGrath, and Haines.



Tom Dean and Chris Olson receive delivery of one of six new fire engines. (Scott Christy)

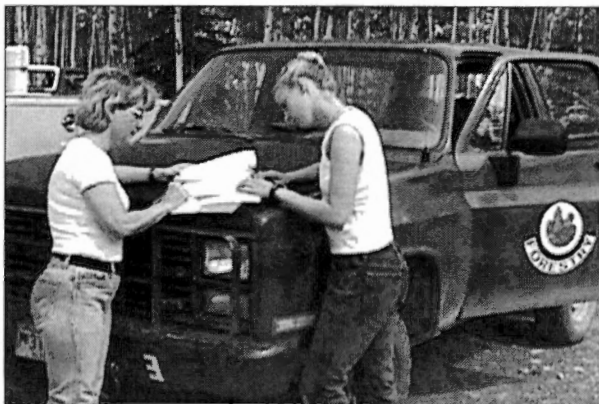
Aviation Program

In 1999, Matt Tomter was hired as the division's aviation supervisor. Matt had spent the previous 10 years in the private sector, starting as a pilot and then managing commercial aviation programs throughout Alaska. Under Matt's leadership, the division evaluated the needs and effectiveness of its aviation section and made changes to the aviation fleet for the 2000 fire season. DOF's review of available aircraft, based on safety, mission effectiveness, and cost effectiveness resulted in a decision to contract two Pilatus PC-7 airplanes. These leased aircraft will be privately-owned but operated by DOF personnel trained to national standards for wildland fire detection and suppression.

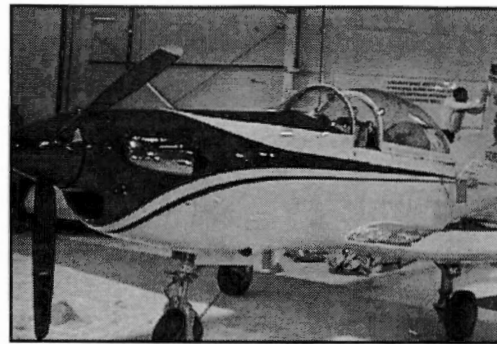
This was the second year the division operated an AC690 Turbine Commander aircraft as an aerial platform to manage aircraft and ground personnel responding to fires. The crew was commended by fellow employees and state officials for their participation and effectiveness in the suppression efforts at the Helmaur Road Fire in Palmer. The aircraft's crew was the primary source of aerial supervision used by state and federal cooperators during the 1999 fire season.

Federal Excess Personal Property Program

The Federal Excess Personal Property (FEPP) Program provides equipment and supplies for wildland fire fighting in Alaska. The Division of Forestry has acquired \$5.4 million in federal excess equipment since it began participating in the program in 1971. The division also assigns FEPP equipment to cooperating volunteer and structural fire departments. This program provides needed equipment to the division and its cooperators as budgets decline and costs rise.



Alma Hibpshman and Shilah Hanson conduct FEPP equipment inventory. Copper River inventory was "letter" perfect. (Scott Christy)



Pilatus PC-7
in paint shop
December
1999
(Matt Tomter)

The division continued to encourage and support the use of commercial aircraft operators whenever possible. Commercial operators conducted 98 percent of all aircraft operations by the division during this fire season.

There were no accidents involving DOF aircraft -- contracted or state-operated -- in 1999. The division has taken many steps to encourage and enforce the safe operation of its aviation program through the All Eyes Safety Program, adopted by DOF in 1998.

In 1999, DOF acquired 1,875 items worth approximately \$168,590. Significant among these items are: one van, blazer, forklift, trailer-mounted high-pressure washer/cleaner, sand blaster, tractor (tug), snowplow, and six-pack-pickup truck, and four four-wheel-drive, one-ton diesel pickup trucks.

This year the division reconditioned two four-wheel-drive, one-ton diesel pickup trucks for volunteer fire departments. Each truck was repainted and outfitted with a 125-gallon roadside pumper unit. One truck was assigned to the Womens Bay Volunteer Fire Department and the other to the Funny River Road Volunteer Fire Department. The trucks will be used for initial attack of roadside fires.

The division also converted a 5,000-gallon jet fuel tanker and fuel dispensing unit into a fire retardant or water storage unit. Fortunately all the existing fittings were compatible with this new use. The unit will replace a temporary open porta-tank at the Homer Fire Retardant Base.

In August the division conducted a statewide "hands-on" inventory of all FEPP equipment. In addition to rectifying the records, a digital image data file is being developed.

Alaska Interagency Wildland Fire Management Plan Amended

As chair of the Alaska Wildland Fire Coordinating Group in 1999, Forestry Deputy Director Dean Brown signed the amended interagency plan. The Minchumina Plan, Alaska's interagency fire management plan, originated in 1984 and is unique nationwide. The amendment resulted from an extensive interagency effort, spearheaded by Brad Cella of the National Park Service, to combine the thirteen Area-Specific Alaska Interagency Wildfire Management Plans. This eliminates the need to refer to several documents to fully understand wildland fire operations in Alaska.

The amendment provides land owners and managers with one document that describes management options, responsibilities, and wildland fire management in Alaska. It incorporates operational changes, clarifies language to improve consistency, and updates terminology. The document does not change the intent of the area-specific plans, fire management options, or fire protection option boundaries now used by land owners and managers.

Miller's Reach Fire Litigation

In 1998, a lawsuit filed against the state by seven people included charges of negligence and damages in the first 24 hours of the 1996 Miller's Reach Fire in the Mat-Su Valley. Their attorneys were joined by a large Minnesota law firm that represented many Exxon Valdez claims. Forestry's response to the discovery and deposition phase required a major commitment of time and personnel by the state and other agencies. Seven file cabinets of documentation were collected, teams of attorneys examined records, depositions were taken from firefighters, and many legal motions were made including a request for class action status. The Attorney General's Office provided excellent support throughout the process.

District Court Judge Beverly Cutler, Palmer, upheld the concept, known as discretionary function immunity, in which a governmental entity is immune from liability for discretionary actions or decisions made to balance social, economic, and political factors. She concluded that wildland fire fighting involves a high level of decision making and a court does not have the authority to second-guess the executive branch in carrying out its designated tasks – in this case fighting wildland fire. A Ninth Circuit decision,

issued on December 18, 1998, that interpreted similar concepts under federal law, lent timely support to the state's case. That case involved a fire where surrounding landowners sued the US Forest Service.

Discretionary function immunity is very important in the way the division approaches wildland fire fighting. If the division had not won the discretionary immunity issue, it could be subject to judicial review of basic fire fighting decisions at almost any time – fire by fire.

In announcing her decision, Judge Cutler said the plaintiffs would be liable for part of the state's attorney fees and later ordered the plaintiffs to pay \$111,000 to the state. The seven plaintiffs have said that they intend to appeal this decision.

The same attorneys filed a second lawsuit in Anchorage for a different set of plaintiffs. Allegations charged the state with deliberate actions that resulted in loss and damage to the plaintiffs rather than negligence as the first lawsuit indicated. Anchorage District Court Judge Reese dismissed the lawsuit, supporting Judge Cutler's finding that the state is immune to lawsuits for discretionary functions like fire fighting. He further ordered the plaintiffs to pay state legal fees in the amount of \$17,000.

Fire Program Training

Gary McGeorge
with drip torch
igniting a training
fire, conducted
by Mat-Su Area
Forestry and the
Mat-Su Borough
at the University
Experimental Farm.
(Dean Brown)



Training Highlights

The division provides training to maintain a qualified work force that meets national standards. All inter-agency courses were open to the state's cooperating structure fire departments and Canadian cooperators.

National level training helped the division meet the need for qualified, advanced incident management personnel to serve on Alaska's Type I and Type II Incident Management Teams. Forestry personnel attended the following courses:

- Advanced Incident Management (S-520)
- Command and General Staff Exercise (S-420)
- Operations Section Chief (S-430)
- Fire Growth Simulation and Advanced Wildland Fire Behavior Calculations (S-490)
- Aviation Safety
- Lead Plane Pilot/Air Tactical Workshop
- OAS/USFS Aircraft Carding
- Prescribed Fire Training
- Canadian Advanced Fire Behavior and Wildland Fire Behavior Specialist
- Airframe and engine courses

Fire Line Safety, Aerial Ignition Devices, Canadian Forest Fire Danger Rating System, Helicopter Manager, Hazardous Materials, Blood-borne Pathogens and First Aid were each offered more than once.

The division was honored to send instructors to the Alberta Provincial Training Center and the National Advanced Resource Technology Center. Only the most highly trained and experienced individuals are asked to participate at this level. A DOF employee participated for the first time at the National Prescribed Fire Training Center.

Twelve emergency firefighter crew bosses were trained during the intensive two-week Alaska Crew Boss Training Course. The division assisted the Anchorage Fire Department with training personnel in the Wildland Interface Firefighter Course in which 101 structural firefighters were certified as basic firefighters.

The Division of Forestry continued to assist the Division of Emergency Services by conducting Basic and Advanced Incident Command System training to local governments in Kodiak, Glennallen, Wasilla, and Delta.

Training in 1999

Type	Courses	Participants	Instructors	Course Hours
Emergency Firefighter	10	246	22	178
Alaska Crew Boss	1	12	4	96
Wildland Interface Firefighter	11	287	16	152
Incident Command System	4	63	11	54
ICS ~ Wildland Fire	3	9	2	72
Fire Management	18	55	4	810
Dispatch	1	8	1	16
Suppression Skills	27	326	26	499
First Aid*	12	128	0	143
Fire Line Safety	27	1212	108	226
Safety, misc.	3	39	0	10
Hazardous Materials - Total	9	97	0	63
Aviation	1	20	0	8
Warehouse	4	27	0	32
First Responder	4	50	0	23
Grand Totals	87	2,566	194	2,382

*includes CPR, blood-borne pathogens, ETT

Chart includes training sponsored by the division and other training attended by division personnel. It includes emergency firefighter crews and participants from other agencies and cooperator fire departments.

Structure Fire Department Training

Structure fire departments across the state assist the Division of Forestry in fire suppression in populated areas through cooperative agreements. These cooperators are a valuable source of trained, experienced firefighters. DOF offers courses in the evenings and on weekends to make the training convenient for volunteer firefighters.

The division conducted an aggressive wildland fire training program in 1999 to meet the training needs of structural fire department cooperators. The response from firefighters was outstanding and numerous fire

personnel throughout the state received needed training in: Fire Operations in the Interface, Fire Suppression Tactics, Fire Line Safety, Engine Boss, Fire Behavior, Helicopter Training, Methods of Instruction, Incident Command System, Initial and Extended Attack Incident Commander, Firing Methods, and Wildland Interface Firefighter. Capital Improvement Project funds helped support this training. **52 courses were attended by 664 fire department personnel for a total of 681 classroom hours.**

Interagency training

Dispatching	Crew Representative
Incident Command System	Fire Suppression Tactics
Unit Leader	Helicopter Base Manager
Fire Operations in the Interface	Helicopter Manager
Interagency Helicopter training	Methods of Instruction
Fire Business Management	Fire Monitoring
Intermediate Fire Behavior	Fire Line Safety Instructor Training
Fire Behavior Calculations	Hazardous Materials training
Canadian Forest Fire Danger Rating System	Fire Line Safety refresher training
Incident Commander Extended Attack	Planning Section Chief
Strike Team/Task Force Leader	

Employee Recognition

Paul Maki elected SAF Fellow

Paul Maki, of the Northern Region Office, was elected to the position of Fellow during the fall 1999 meeting of the Society of American Foresters. This is the highest honor a member can receive. He was among 35 elected nationally and the only one from Alaska. Fellows are SAF professional members who have rendered outstanding service to the profession of forestry and the SAF. His election to Fellow will be recognized during the national convention of the Society of American Foresters in Washington, D.C. in November 2000. Paul is a Certified Forester and Assistant Northern Regional Forester in Fairbanks. He is a 28-year employee of the division and has been a member of the SAF for 32 years.

Karen Gordon Earns MBA

Karen Gordon has earned a Master's Degree in Business Administration from the University of Alaska, while working full time as Administrative Assistant for the Northern Region. Karen has worked for the division since September 1991. She received a Bachelor's Degree in business in 1985 and took graduate-level classes part-time in 1992 and 1993. In 1997 she took up her studies in earnest by taking a full load of graduate classes. After three semesters she graduated with an MBA in December 1998. During this period she earned all A's except for one B.

Karen gives a lot of credit to her supervisor, Chris Christianson, whose support allowed her to finish so quickly. She says that one skill she was forced to hone during her course of study was writing. Although she had never enjoyed writing, she found that she truly enjoyed expressing herself and her opinions both verbally and in writing. This is a useful skill to have in her work with Forestry.

Patricia Joyner Receives Stewardship Award

Patricia Joyner, Education Coordinator for the Urban & Community Forestry Program, was one of two recipients of the Stewardship Award given by the American Society of Landscape Architects

Alaska Chapter. The awards were part of the ASLA Centennial Celebration to recognize individuals who have exemplified themselves in pursuit of values important to landscape architects. Awards were given to 12 people in November.

The Stewardship Award recognizes leadership and exemplary work in the protection and enhancement of public lands and resources. Patricia was cited for both her work in the UCF Program and her volunteer efforts. As part of her duties, she plans and implements community activities, produces publications, educates, and builds support for community forestry. She also helps communities build sustainable community forestry and tree care programs.

Patricia serves on several volunteer committees including the Great Land Trust Board and the Midtown Park & Trail Committee. Her commitment each day helps the citizens of Alaska improve the quality of life for themselves and their communities.

John LeClair and Sharon Kilbourn-Roesch Recognized for FIREWISE

John LeClair and Sharon Kilbourn-Roesch were recognized by the Alaska Wildland Fire Coordinating Group (AWFCG) for the exceptional FIREWISE product they developed for use in Alaska. Sharon is the fire prevention forest technician and John is the fire management officer for the Kenai-Kodiak Area.

FIREWISE is a community action program that provides individuals, groups, and communities with the tools to evaluate fire preparedness, take effective prevention measures, and plan ahead. It is based on a system in which neighbors coordinate their efforts and take action to improve preparedness. The program provides the first wildland-urban interface tool to enable Alaskans to take personal responsibility for their own safety.

The work by Sharon and John provided the foundation for the publication of FIREWISE by AWFCG as part of a statewide prevention effort. Governor Knowles wrote the introduction to FIREWISE and former Governor Hammond provided part of the video.

Retirements

Andy Alexandrou

Andy Alexandrou retired on June 5 after 13 years of state service. Andy was hired in March 1986 as a Forest Technician V in McGrath. In this position, Andy served as the Fire Management Officer for the Southwest Area. In January 1992, Andy was promoted to Forester II.

Andy managed the initial attack organization for the Southwest Area and supervised the Area Foreman, Area Logistics Coordinator, and the Area Aviation Manager. In addition, during busy fire seasons he supervised well over 100 people.

The division experienced some of its busiest years during Andy's tenure in McGrath. In 1991 the Southwest Area managed two Type II project fires, numerous initial attack fires and several extended attack fires at the same. 1996 and 1997 were also active fire seasons with several extended attack and project fires. In 1997 over one million acres burned in the Southwest Area. Andy was instrumental to the success of the Southwest Area throughout these years. His ability to anticipate fire activity and his willingness to make difficult decisions kept the division ahead of the fires. It is significant that throughout Andy's tenure there were no serious injuries resulting from fire or aviation activities.



Andy Alexandrou
(Dean Brown)

Andy initiated use of the stability index (a weather measurement that estimates the relative stability of the atmosphere) in fire management in Alaska. He understood that Southwest Area fires were almost all caused by lightning. By paying close attention to the stability index, he could determine when lightning was likely and when it was not.

This allowed staff to be prepared early enough to reduce the size and cost of fires through effective and efficient initial attack.

Andy enjoyed a good working relationship with the Southwest Area cooperators. He worked effectively with native organizations and federal agencies. His understanding of the importance of the Wildland Fire Situation Analysis and thorough briefings created a relationship between the Southwest Area and the Incident Management Teams and others that went to McGrath on fire assignment.

Andy enjoys hunting, trapping, and fishing, which helped him fit in well in the community. Andy enjoyed his tenure in McGrath enough to make it his home as well as his work station.

Chris Christianson

Originally from Minnesota, Chris first came to Alaska from Michigan in 1975 with the Air Force. He worked in contract compliance on radar sites with RCA and retired in 1980. Rod Ketchum hired Chris in the Division of Forest, Land and Water Management in July 1980. Chris started in the McKay Building on 4th Avenue in Anchorage, moved to the "Ole" Building in 1981, the Frontier Building in 1985 and then to the Atwood Building in August 1999. He was the first and only Administrative Officer for Forestry, working for many years for former Deputy Director George Hollett.

In the 19 years he spent in the division, he shepherded Forestry administration through the unique creation of the interagency fire management plans, the Tok and Miller's Reach fires, numerous disaster declarations and supplemental budgets. He could be found at one or two fires a year checking out the finance sections. The annual administrative meetings he instituted proved a great training ground for managers as well as support staff. Chris had a strong work ethic and his dedication and integrity made Forestry



Chris Christianson is congratulated by Deputy Commissioner Marty Rutherford at his retirement party. (Dean Brown)

a better place to work. His legacy is the sound fiscal and administrative management that Forestry enjoys.

Chris is an avid fisherman, hunter and snowmachiner. When he retired at the end of 1999, he was asked what he would do in retirement. He replied, "same thing only more, plus enjoy my motor home". He and several others plan to take their snowmachines from Tok to Dawson City and back in March 2000.

Janet Davis

Janet Davis, Administrative Assistant for the Director's Anchorage Office, retired January 1, 2000 after more than 15 years of state service. Janet was always cheerful and willing to help whether it was the pilots with their travel forms, field office assistants with questions, or with crews being hired in villages. Her good humor and friendliness made everyone feel at home.



Janet Davis
(Chris Christianson)

Janet's initial employment with DNR was as a Clerk Typist with the Division of Mining. In Forestry she progressed from Clerk to Administrative Assistant. She brought to each position a team perspective and became known as one who could always be counted upon to provide outstanding program support and a more efficient operation in all that she was involved with. The division, and the Aviation Section in particular, was extremely fortunate that Janet worked for the division for nearly 14 years. She will be missed, especially at budget time and in federal grants administration. Janet continues her greenhouse business in Eagle River and has taken on the business records for her husband Paul's business as well.

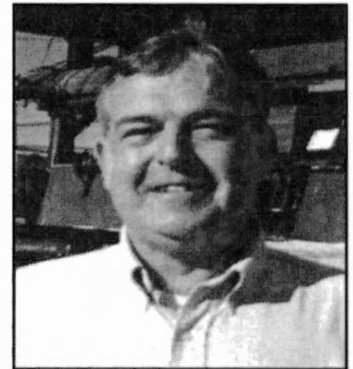
Les Fortune

Les first came to Alaska with the Army in 1967 and served at Ft. Richardson and Ft. Wainwright in the 808th Engineers. He left the Army in 1969 and worked for John Zazada at the US Forest Services lab in Fairbanks for six months. In the fall of 1969 Enzo Becia hired Les as a Forester I to work in forest inventory for the Division of Land in Anchorage, before Forestry became a division. When a position opened in Haines, where the logging industry was thriving, Les took it to gain more field experience. From Haines, Les went to Fairbanks in the spring of 1971 as a forester. He ran an inmate crew on Bonanza Creek and later a CETA crew doing timber sale work for several years. At that time he and one other forester were the entire Forestry staff in Fairbanks.

In the spring of 1976, Les was promoted to District Forester, a position he held, with a title change to Regional Forester when the Division of Forestry was formed in 1979, until his retirement. As Northern Regional Forester, Les was instrumental in assisting State Forester John Sturgeon in creating the Tanana Valley State Forest. This provided the essential land base for forest management and development in the Interior. Les is especially proud of his role in the creation of the Tanana Valley State Forest, the development of a reforestation program through the Forest Practices Act, and building the fire program. Under his leadership area offices were formed in Tok, Delta, Fairbanks, and Copper River.

Les noted major changes from the early years of the fire program. When the state first took over the fire program there were no real guidelines to follow. In 1976, Les was the fire boss on the Eagle River Fire, the state's first project fire. He, Paul Maki, and Bill LaTocha fought fires even though none of them had any background in fire fighting and very little training. It was nothing like today when you spend several years working in fire before you are put in charge.

When he retired in July, Les bought a riverboat and can be found on Birch, Harding or Quartz Lakes fishing during the week. He is building an addition to his house -- rumor has it to house his growing Lionel train collection. He remains active in the Society of American Foresters, where he is an SAF Fellow, and is the Alaska state chair again this year. He and Jan intend to remain in Fairbanks for the time being to be near their daughter, son-in-law, and grandchildren.



Les Fortune (Dean Brown)

Ida Hazlett

Ida Hazlett worked for the Division of Forestry for nearly 10 years as Accounting Technician for the South Zone. Ida retired on October 1 and her outstanding accounting skills will be sorely missed. Ida had a good sense of humor with a quiet approach and was a hard worker. All the field office assistants and many others she met on fire assignments or when hiring crews appreciated her helpfulness. It is in part because of Ida that the division enjoys a reputation in the department for having an outstanding

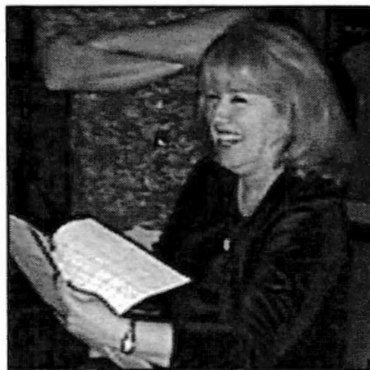
support services organization. Ida decided to retire after a trip back to Kentucky where she found and bought a farm close to the homes of her parents and her husband's parents.



Ida
Hazlett

Gail Kaufman-Lindh

Gail Kaufman-Lindh began working with the Division of Forestry in the Fairbanks warehouse in 1984. She had previously worked for the Department of Transportation and felt she needed a change. Over the years Gail saw the warehouse operation grow from a small



Gail Kaufman-Lindh
(Karen Gordon)

one-room building and two employees, to a multi-building state fire warehouse operation with many employees. Going from a card index inventory to a fully automated system with computers. Gail contributed to many of the changes that came about during her career with Forestry. In her last year she was the committee chair for design and implementation of the new warehouse interagency catalog.

Gail is looking forward to retirement so she can travel to exotic places around the world. During the off season Gail and her husband Jan have been sailing in the Sea of Cortez. They now plan to buy a bigger sailboat and sail full time. Gail will be missed for her positive, hard-work ethic, can-do attitude and smiling face.

Paula Kelly-Aiken

Paula Kelly-Aiken, South Zone Administrative Assistant, retired September 1 with nearly 26 years of state service. Of this total, 10 years were with the Division of Forestry. Paula will be remembered for her artistic talent, for numerous reports and handbooks, and for assistance to fellow employees, (especially area foresters and fire management officers),

and for her excellent accounting and support sections. Because of Paula, many new procedures, documents, briefing packages, and training events were instituted, which enhanced program support for the division and for DNR.



Paula Kelley-Aiken
(Dean Brown)

Dan Ketchum

Dan was hired as a Forest Practices Coordinator in March 1981. He developed training sessions and record-keeping procedures for the new forest practices inspections on private lands. In 1982 he was promoted to Assistant Southcentral District Forester for Resources where he was involved in the Susitna, Copper River,



Dan Ketchum

and Prince William Sound area plans. He also managed the Icy Bay Timber Sale. In 1985, Dan became the Special Projects Forester in the State Forester's Office where he conducted a sawmill inventory and promoted the use of Alaskan wood. In 1986, when the Southeast Region Office disbanded, he became Coastal Area Forester for Southeast. He was later a Regional Forester for Administration in Southcentral and a fire duty officer.

In September 1988, Dan retired, went to seminary for three years, and interned in the Barrow and Atkasuk Presbyterian Churches. Returning to Forestry in

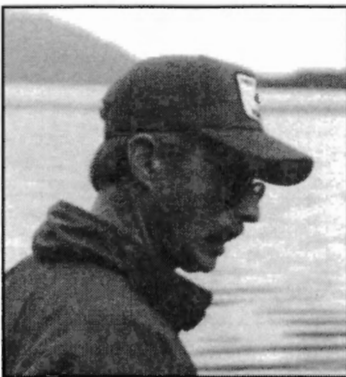
August 1991, he became the coordinator of the Urban & Community Forestry Program. He also coordinated the Forest Stewardship Program for two years. In 1993, when the division took on the Project Learning Tree program, he supervised the coordinator. He also accepted the duties of Forest Practices Hearing Officer in 1994.

Dick Malchow

Tok Area Forester Dick Malchow retired July 15, after 17 years with the division. Dick began working for Forestry in 1982 as the Delta Area Forester. He came to Forestry from the Tok office of the Bureau of Land Management. He returned to Tok in 1984 when Forestry opened an office.

Dick was a can-do, mission-oriented person with a sense of community and a driving desire to improve his own performance and that of those with whom he worked. Many people will remember his talks about personal empowerment and his philosophies of management. He inspired his employees to learn new skills and technology and spoke with sincere pride in their accomplishments. He started a prescribed fire program in the Tok Area that, in acreage burned, rivals any done elsewhere in the state. He was the "old hand" in fire and forest management in the eastern Interior.

Jim McAllister



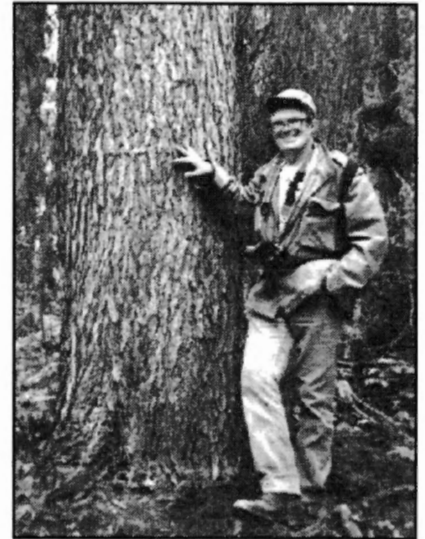
Jim McAllister (Dean Brown)

1982 with John Sturgeon as the first director. Jim served as division liaison in the Commissioner's Office working on forestry issues with the legislature and industry starting in 1985. In July 1987 he was named Southeast Regional Forester and was instrumental in the development of the Forest Practices and Resources Act revision begun in 1988. Jim was promoted to Coastal Region Forester in September

Jim came to DNR in February 1980 in the Division of Technical Services. He joined Forest, Land & Water Management that November, working for Paul Maki and using the experience he had gained during five years in Oregon and Washington working as a logging engineer for Weyerhaeuser. Forestry became a division in

Dan retired in June after 15 years of service to the state. The division benefitted from his good cheer, his ministerial skills, and his outreach to communities throughout Alaska.

Dick and his wife Betty have moved to Halfway, Oregon where they initially bought a farm but have since moved into town to be closer to medical facilities. Those who have seen the work Dick put into building his house in Tok have no doubt that he will be fully involved in projects and just as active as ever.



Dick Malchow (Paul Maki)

1993 and remained in that position until his retirement on December 30.

In reflecting upon his career with Forestry, Jim is most proud of the Forest Resources and Practices Act revision and regulations. A lot of research and hard work went into this and it was touted as the leading Forest Practices Act in the nation, protecting streams, fisheries and habitat. This effort provides a process for making good management decisions based on science, not on special interests.

Jim was noted for invigorating timber sales in southeast and southcentral Alaska – in Icy Bay, Haines, and on the Kenai Peninsula in particular. He notes that Forestry does not get a lot of credit for timber sales although they provide a lot of jobs and economic vitality. Jim supported the state's position during litigation with the University of Alaska over Icy Bay and Kenai Peninsula sales. These lawsuits addressed fundamental and critical legal issues that provide the foundation for future forest development and use.

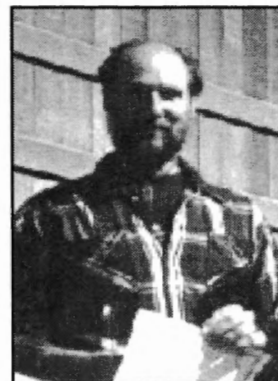
Jim plans to move to McCall, Idaho in retirement and enjoy the skiing, fishing, and hunting. He is an avid skier but less known are his challenging ski trips across ice fields and glaciers. This spring he and friends will ski from Lake Lindemann, down

Pete Simpson

Pete Simpson retired on December 31 after working with the Division of Forestry for almost 23 years. He began his DNR career in the spring of 1977 at Eagle River as a crew foreman in the wildland fire program. In the fall of that year he moved to Fairbanks to work in the burn permit program and to conduct fall-buck-and-scale projects in white spruce stands in the upper Chena River area. For the next six years he worked as field projects chief, managing various aspects of the fire program in the Fairbanks Area and coordinating road work and crews on resource projects. That was followed by six years as road engineering technician, assisting in timber sale layout, and managing the personal-use house log program in the Fairbanks Area.

Chilkoot Pass to Skagway. In 1993 Jim, Mike Peacock, and Bruce Baker skied from Skagway to Atlin across the glacier. On another trip, Jim skied across glaciers from Juneau to Lake Atlin.

Since 1990, Pete had worked in the Forest Stewardship and Community Forestry programs working with private landowners and presenting school programs from Homer to Fort Yukon and from Eagle to Denali Park. He liked working with children and did many projects with school classes. His office was decorated with letters of thanks and artwork from grateful students.



*Pete Simpson
(Karen Gordon)*

David Wallingford

Dave was hired as a Resources Staff Forester by Ted Smith and Rod Ketchum in the Division of Forest, Land & Water Management in 1978. He came from the Colorado State Forest Service where he worked after obtaining a B.S. in Forestry at Colorado State University. In those days the number of foresters who worked for DNR was small enough they could all sit around a table. As Dave tells it Ted Smith told him "I created the first state park and now I'm going to create the first state forest - here's what we're going to do . . ." So



*Dave Wallingford
(Dean Brown)*

Dave was the forester primarily responsible for the work resulting in the Haines State Forest. He was also involved in major forest land use plans as the state developed a land use process.

Dave was the Southcentral Regional Forester from August 1987 through June 1992, with responsibility for the fire, resources, and forest practices programs. He was line officer on the Pothole Lake Fire on the Kenai in 1991. He was later named Chief of Resources for Forestry and worked statewide issues such as the Mental Health Land Trust settlement and on the School Lands Trust. Dave retired December 30.

Dave really enjoys Alaska and seems to always make time for fishing and hunting during the year. In retirement he intends to continue his enjoyment of the outdoors. He has already planned trips to Wood-Tikchik State Park, Iliamna, and Montague Island in the next year, and has his sights set on Italy and other faraway places. May the Forest be with you, Dave.

15 Years of State Service

Rick DuPuis

Rick began his career with the Division of Forestry in 1977 at Eagle River as a helitack/engine crew leader, which he continued when he moved to Glennallen in 1979. In 1984, he was promoted to suppression foreman, and remained in that position until 1990. At that time, Rick moved to the Northern Region as Regional Logistics Coordinator, the position that he holds today. Rick has been involved with the logistical support of many of the division's large fires in his career. This experience, along with his background in fire operations, makes him a valuable employee of the division.

Cindy Forrest-Elkins

Cindy Forrest-Elkins began her career with the division in 1984 as the Southcentral Region Training Coordinator in Anchorage. Working for the Alaska Fire Service in fire training and initial attack fire fighting has made her a very valuable asset to the division. Cindy assumed the role of State Training Coordinator in 1993 and has done an outstanding job of coordinating and managing the division's Wildland Fire Training Program. One area she has worked very hard at is providing critically needed wildland fire training to structure fire departments across the state.

Harry Graetz

Harry Graetz began working for the division in the Northern Region maintenance shop in 1981 as a maintenance worker. He is the main chainsaw repair expert in the shop and has recently started working more on DOF's water pumps. Over the years he has been involved with building maintenance work on the Fairbanks site, and occasional vehicle fleet maintenance work and heavy equipment operations. All of Harry's 15 years with Forestry have been at the Northern Region shop in Fairbanks.

Gary Hopkins

Gary Hopkins was hired as a Forest Technician I firefighter for the Fairbanks Area in April of 1979. Gary has fought many fires during his career, from numerous small initial attack fires to large project fires such as the 200,000-acre Dune Lake Fire in 1981. In 1990, Gary transferred to the Fairbanks Area resources program as a Forest Technician III in pre-sale. Gary is responsible for timber sale layout, cruising, traversing and mapping. Gary also handles the personal-use house log and negotiated timber sale programs for the Fairbanks Area.

Patricia Joyner

Patricia began state service at the Department of Revenue in April 1984. In December 1985 she joined DNR in the the Commissioner's Office as an Information Officer. She produced brochures, media releases, the DNR newsletter, and assisted all divisions in providing information to other agencies and the public. Patricia came to Forestry in 1992 when the division began administering the Urban & Community Forestry Program. She serves as the Education Coordinator for this state/federal cooperative program. Using her background and training in education, volunteer management, arboriculture and urban forestry, she creates publications, makes presentations, leads classes, and gives technical assistance to agencies, cities, businesses, and the public in managing trees and forest resources in communities. She also produces the division's annual report.

Roy Josephson

Roy started work for the division in August 1984 as Forester II in Haines. He was in charge of the field crews. One month after he began, his supervisor resigned and Roy was appointed Acting Area Forester. Roy was later hired as Haines Area Forester. He manages the state forest and its active timber sale and reforestation program. Roy has been very active in the local community and participates in fire response to wildland fires in the area. Currently, Roy is transitioning into the position of Area Forester for all of northern Southeast.

Ray Kraemer

Ray Kraemer moved to Soldotna in April 1980, after four years with the Minnesota DNR, to take a job as a Forest Technician II in the fire suppression program. In 1985, when Forestry opened its office in McGrath, he moved there and worked as Suppression Foreman IV. He returned to Soldotna a year later as Suppression Foreman and stayed until 1989 when he went to Oregon to work on a degree in civil engineering. In 1990, he moved back to Alaska and took the Logistics Coordinator position in Tok. He advanced to the Suppression Foreman/Fire Management Officer position in 1996. Ray has been the Acting Tok Area Forester since July, when Dick Malchow retired.

Chuck Leshner

Chuck came to Forestry with a solid background in state government. He started with Department of Administration, Division of Personnel in June 1982, and subsequently worked for Fish and Game, Commerce and Economic Development, Labor, and Transportation, before coming to DNR. He has worked in Personnel, Classification and Examining, Payroll, Collections (small loans), research and analysis, the mailroom, and through various clerk typist positions to his current job of six years as Administrative Assistant in Forestry. He particularly likes the wide range of duties from beach log salvage to procurement. Chuck has lived in Juneau all of his life -- or as he says "not to be confused with --I've been stuck here every single day of my life."

Joe Stam

Joe joined Forestry in 1984 as the McGrath Area Forester. He came from the Idaho Department of Lands where he was District Forest Warden. In 1990, he moved to Fairbanks to the position of statewide Fire Operations Forester. He has been on the Alaska Type I Team since 1987 as the Operations Section Chief. In November 1997, he was selected as the state's first Alaska Type I Team Incident Commander. In December 1998, he became Fire Program Manager and in September 1999 moved to Anchorage in that same position. Joe actively represents Alaska on the Council of Western State Fire Managers, the National Wildfire Coordinating Group Wildland/Urban Interface Working Group, and is an ad-hoc member of the Alaska Wildland Fire Coordinating Group. Joe has seen a major increase in wildland/urban interface fires during his career and participated on all the major fires including the Tok Fire, Miller's Reach Fire, and Delta fires.

20 Years of State Service

Ruth Tadda

Ruth began her state employment with the Alaska Public Utilities Commission in March 1979 working with Commissioners Susan Knowles, Carolyn Guess, Gordon Zerbetz, Stuart Hall and Marvin Weatherly. Between 1981 and 1989, she worked for the Department of Public Safety as the Colonel's Secretary at Fish and Wildlife Protection. She joined Forestry in 1989 when Bob Dick was State Forester and subsequently assisted Dean Brown, Tom Boutin, and Jeff Jahnke. Ruth was liaison to the Board of Forestry and often represented the division in public and industry-related forums. In late 1998 and 1999, when DOF assisted the Military & Veteran Affairs, Division of Emergency Services, Ruth worked with the Statewide Emergency Response Commission and the Governor's Disaster Policy Cabinet. She was also the vendor coordinator on the 1998 western fisheries disaster, which had an \$18 million congressional appropriation to help Alaskans hurt by poor fish returns. Ruth now works in the Division of Oil and Gas.

Lynn Wilcock

Lynn began his career with DOF in 1979 as a forest technician at the Big Lake office. When the Copper River office opened he accepted a promotion to Area Foreman at that office. He remained Area Foreman at Copper River until he accepted a promotion to the position of Regional Logistics Coordinator in the Southcentral Region office in Anchorage. Lynn remained in that position until he was promoted to the Area Fire Management Officer for the Anchorage/Mat-Su Area. Lynn spent some time as the Area Fire & Administrative Manager for the Anchorage/Mat-Su Area when the fire and resource management programs were placed under different supervisors. Lynn has been on Type II and Type I Incident Management Teams for most of his career with the division. Lynn is currently the Acting Area Forester for the Mat-Su/Southwest Area in Palmer.

Bruce Johnson

Bruce began working for the Division of Forest, Land & Water Management in Juneau in 1979 when Regional Forester Paul Maki hired him as the first Forest Practices Forester for Southeast Alaska. The Native corporations had just begun harvesting their timber. Bruce and one Fish & Game employee were the only state personnel looking at Native corporation harvest operations in all of Southeast Alaska. In 1984, Bruce became Juneau Area Forester and undertook the small timber sale and beach log salvage programs, as well as forest practices, in northern Southeast. In 1988 he became the Icy Bay Area Forester where he administered the Icy Cape II timber sale.

After marrying in 1989, he took a position with the Division of Land in 1990 as an adjudicator, in order to spend more time at home. In 1994 he accepted his current position as the Regional Forest Practices Act Forester for the Coastal Region. Bruce administers the beach log salvage program and evaluates how well the Forest Practices Act and Best Management Practices are being implemented. He also works with other agencies to achieve the goals of the state's forestry non-point source pollution control programs.

Bill Johnson

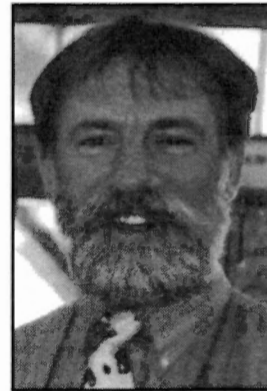
Bill was hired as a Forester I in pre-sale for the Haines Area Office in 1979. In 1981, Bill moved to Fairbanks and the Northern Region Office as an inventory forester. In 1985, he transferred to the Fairbanks Area Office as the pre-sale forester. Bill's position was upgraded to a Forester II in 1991 due to a heavy workload and increasing job responsibilities. Bill has been responsible for a number of innovations during his career. He assisted in developing the "certified cruiser" course for the area office. He also developed a number of software programs in Excel for timber sale appraisal, in Dbase for tracking sale data, and in ArcView for timber sale maps. Bill was instrumental in setting up one of the first interagency GPS base stations in Fairbanks for accomplishing mapping work. Bill serves on DNR's computer committee.

Bill is to be commended for the initiative he took to teach himself computer skills, spending untold hours of personal time to reach his current level of expertise.

25 Years of State Service

Jim Couckuyt

Jim joined Forestry in 1973 as a Forest Warden and was involved in the fire prevention program. In 1979, he became the Regional Training Officer and assisted with the transition training from the Large Fire Organization to the Incident Command System. Jim also spent a lot of time during this period in dispatch and logistics. In 1990, Jim became the Regional Aviation Officer and has been instrumental in the development of the current helicopter and air tanker contracts. His wide variety of experiences in the field make him a valuable member of the division.



Jim Couckuyt
(Dean Brown)

Fiscal Year 1999 Actuals¹

Funding Sources	Forest Mgmt. & Development ²	Fire Suppression	Total
General Funds	\$7,030.2	\$13,731.9	\$20,762.1
Federal Funds	1,310.0	5,561.1	6,871.1
Capital Improvement Receipts	277.7	—	277.7
Interagency Receipts	1,073.5	15.9	1,089.4
General Fund/ Program Receipts	6.8	—	6.8
Other	11.8	—	11.8
Totals	\$9,710.0	\$19,308.9	\$29,018.9
Positions			
Permanent Full-Time	62	8	70
Permanent Part-Time	118	33	151
Non-Permanent	12	—	12
Total Positions	192	41	233

Forest Management & Development Component

Renewable Resource Development & Sales	Coastal Region	Northern Region	Statewide	Total
Board of Forestry	—	—	15.1	15.1
Forest Practices	311.7	—	73.1	384.8
Forest Stewardship	240.1	517.4	122.5	880.0
Reforestation	64.9	179.9	—	244.8
State Timber Sales	361.3	497.7	97.2	956.2
Capital Improvement Receipts	137.0	134.1	6.6	277.7
General Fund/Program Receipts	—	—	6.8	6.8
Unbudgeted RSAs	—	—	1,049.1	1,049.1
Other	—	—	11.8	11.8
Subtotals	\$1,115.0	\$1,329.1	\$1,382.2	\$3,826.3
Wildland Fire Protection Services				
Anchorage School District Interns	40.7	—	—	40.7
Pre-suppression	2,286.8	1,466.9	418.0	4,171.7
Subtotals	\$2,327.5	\$1,466.9	\$418.0	\$4,212.4
Forest Administration				
Federal Cooperative Forestry Assistance	—	—	1,310.0	1,310.0
Director's Office	—	—	361.3	361.3
Subtotals	—	—	\$1,671.3	\$1,671.3
TOTALS	\$3,442.5	\$2,796.0	\$3,471.5	\$9,710.0

¹ All dollar figures are in thousands. For actual number, move decimal three spaces to the right, e.g., 686.5 is 686,500.

² Includes the cost of fire pre-suppression (preparation to fight fires).

Fiscal Year 2000 Budget¹

Funding Sources	Forest Mgmt. & Development ²	Fire Suppression	EFF Non- Emergency	Total
General Funds	6,897.7	3,163.0	—	10,060.7
Federal Funds	1,141.0	5,319.6	—	6,460.6
Capital Improvement Receipts	280.7	—	250.0	530.7
Interagency Receipts	49.9	—	—	49.9
General Fund/Program Receipts	14.8	—	—	14.8
Totals	\$8,384.1	\$8,482.6	\$250.0	\$17,116.7
Positions				
Permanent Full-Time	62	8	—	70
Permanent Part-Time	117	33	—	150
Non-Permanent	17	—	—	17
Total Positions	196	41	—	237

Forest Management & Development Component

Renewable Resource Development & Sales	Coastal Region	Northern Region	Statewide	Total
Board of Forestry	—	—	9.1	9.1
Forest Practices	355.1	—	50.8	405.9
Forest Stewardship	260.7	469.5	118.6	848.8
Reforestation	65.0	180.0	—	245.0
State Timber Sales	296.4	472.9	118.0	887.3
Capitol Improvement Receipts	—	—	263.7	263.7
General Fund/Program Receipts	—	—	14.8	14.8
Subtotals	\$977.2	\$1,122.4	\$575.0	\$2,674.6
Wildland Fire Protection Services				
Anchorage School District Interns	38.9	—	—	38.9
Pre-suppression	1,985.0	1,705.6	469.5	4,160.1
Subtotals	\$2,023.9	\$1,705.6	\$469.5	\$4,199.0
Forest Administration				
Federal Cooperative Forestry Assistance	—	—	1,141.0	1,141.0
Director's Office	—	—	369.5	369.5
Subtotals	—	—	\$1,510.5	\$1,510.5
TOTALS	\$3,001.1	\$2,828.0	\$2,555.0	\$8,384.1

¹ All dollar figures are in thousands. For actual number, move decimal three spaces to the right, e.g., 686.5 is 686,500.

² Includes the cost of fire pre-suppression (preparation to fight fires).

Citizen Advisory Groups

12/99

Alaska Board of Forestry

Richard Carle, Jr., Native corporation, Craig
Debra Clausen, non-governmental fish or wildlife biologist, Seward
Larry Hartig, recreational organization, Anchorage
Jeff Jahnke, State Forester, Juneau
William Jeffress, mining organization, Fairbanks
vacant, non-governmental forestry

Richard Smeriglio, environmental organization, Moose Pass
John Sturgeon, forest industry trade association, Anchorage
Paul Swartzbart, commercial fishermen's organization, Cordova

Tanana Valley State Forest Citizens' Advisory Committee

Frank Burris, Upper Tanana Valley representative, Delta Junction
Robert Charlie, Native community, Fairbanks
Brad Cox, value-added processing, Delta Junction
Tom DeLong, tourism industry, Fairbanks
Gilbert Ketzler, Sr., Lower Tanana Valley representative, Nenana
Audrey Magoun, fish/wildlife interests, Fairbanks

Jerry Gustafson, forest industry, Fairbanks
Ron Ricketts, private forest-user, Fairbanks
Chris Stark, environmental interests, Fairbanks
Shelly Stephenson, mining industry, Fairbanks
Bill Studebaker, recreation, Fairbanks
Trish Wurtz, forest science, Fairbanks

Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee

Ole Andersson, landowner, Soldotna
Steve Bush, USDA Forest Service, Anchorage
Steve Glos, landowner, Wasilla
Jeff Graham, Alaska Division of Forestry, Soldotna
Doug Hanson, Tanana Chiefs Conference, Fairbanks
Max Huhndorf, Gana-A' Yoo, Ltd., Galena
Brit Lively, landowner, Palmer
Jimmy LaVoie, USDA Farm Service Agency, Palmer
George Matz, The Audubon Society, Anchorage

Mitch Michaud, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Kenai
John Mohorcich, Kenai Peninsula Borough, Soldotna
Charlie Nash, forest industry representative, Big Lake
Erica Reith, USDI Bureau of Indian Affairs, Juneau
Bob Wheeler, Alaska Cooperative Extension, Fairbanks
Evie Witten, The Great Land Trust, Anchorage
Dick Zobel, Natural Resource Conservation & Development Board, Wasilla

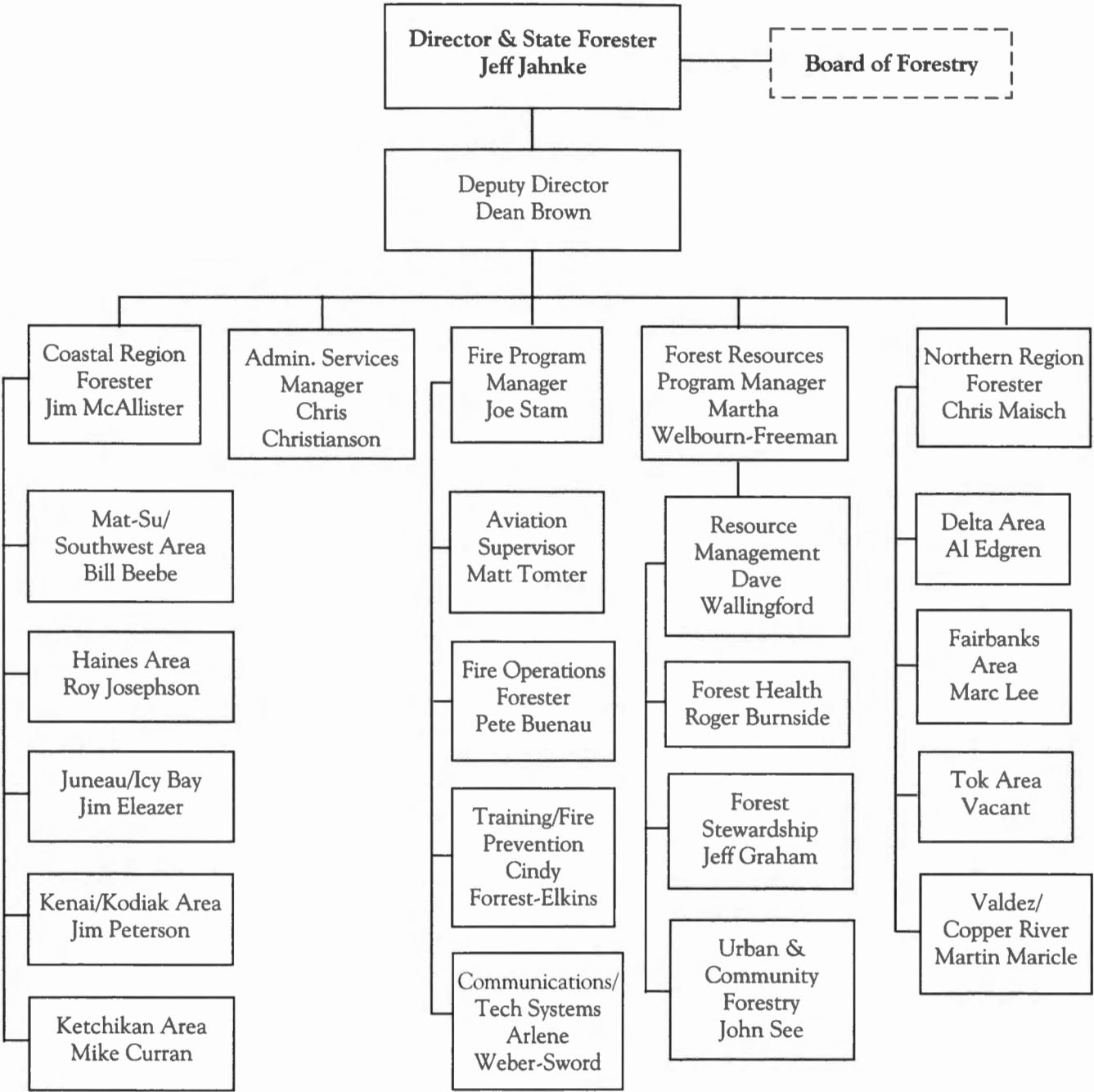
Alaska Urban & Community Forest Council

John Alden, member-at-large, Fairbanks
Michael Fastabend, member-at-large, Soldotna
Carol Griswold, municipal planning, Seward
Dan Ketchum, arborist, Juneau
Jonnie Lazarus, community forestry and beautification, Girdwood
Mike Lyne, member-at-large, Palmer
Sarah McClellan, Alaska Cooperative Extension, Fairbanks

Christopher Mertl, landscape architect, Juneau
Michael Rath, forester, Anchorage
Beverly Richardson, member-at-large, Petersburg
John Rowe, construction/right-of-way, Fairbanks
Warren Templin, member-at-large, Palmer
Gregg Terry, horticulture, Eagle River
Michelle Weston York, small community service, Girdwood
Diane Wood, business/industry, King Salmon

Division of Forestry Organization Chart

12/99



Division of Forestry Directory

3/00

Division of Forestry homepage address: www.dnr.state.ak.us/forestry

State Forester's Office

State Forester

Jeff Jahnke
400 Willoughby Ave., 3rd Floor
Juneau, Alaska 99801
465-3379 fax: 586-3113

Anchorage Office

550 West 7th Ave., Suite 1450
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
269-8474 fax: 561-8931

Deputy State Forester

Dean Brown, 269-8476

Admin. Services Manager

Lex McKenzie, 269-8477

Forest Resources Program Manager

Martha Welbourn-Freeman
269-8473

Urban & Community Forestry

John See, 269-8466

Forest Health & Protection

(Insects and Disease)
Roger Burnside, 269-8460

Fire Program Manager

Joe Stam, 269-8467

Forest Stewardship Program

3700 Airport Way
Fairbanks, AK 99709
Jeff Graham, 451-2668

Fire Operations Forester

P.O. Box 35005
Fort Wainwright, AK 99703-0005
Pete Buenau, 356-5850

Fire Management Office - Palmer

101 Airport Rd.
Palmer, Alaska 99645
761-6238 fax: 761-6227
Bill Beebe, Fire Mgmt. Officer

Fire Management Office - Fairbanks

3700 Airport Way
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709
451-2680 fax: 451-2690
Jim Lewandoski, Fire Mgmt. Officer

Northern Region

Northern Region Office

3700 Airport Way
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709
451-2660 fax: 451-2690
Chris Maisch, Region Forester
451-2666

Fairbanks Area Office

3700 Airport Way
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709-4699
451-2601 fax: 451-2633
Marc Lee, Area Forester

Valdez-Copper River Area Office

P.O. Box 185
(Mi. 110 Richardson Hwy.)
Glennallen, Alaska 99588
822-5534 fax: 822-5539
Martin Maricle, Area Forester

Delta Area Office

P.O. Box 1149
(Mi. 267.5 Richardson Hwy.)
Delta Junction, Alaska 99737
895-4225 fax: 895-4934
Al Edgren, Area Forester

Tok Area Office

Box 10 (Mile 123 Glenn Hwy.)
Tok, Alaska 99780
883-5134 fax: 883-5135
Ray Kraemer, Acting Area Forester

Coastal Region

Coastal Region Office

400 Willoughby Ave., 3rd Floor
Juneau, Alaska 99801
465-2494 fax: 586-3113
Jim Eleazer, Region Forester
465-5401

Mat-Su/Southwest Area Office

101 Airport Rd.
Palmer, Alaska 99645
761-6205 fax: 761-6319
Ken Bullman, Area Forester

Kenai-Kodiak Area Office

HC 1, Box 107
(Mi. 92.5 Sterling Hwy.)
Soldotna, Alaska 99669
262-4124 fax: 262-6390
Jim Peterson, Area Forester

Northern Southeast Area Office

P.O. Box 263 (Gateway Building)
Haines, Alaska 99827
766-2120 fax: 766-3225
Roy Josephson, Area Forester

Southern Southeast Area Office

2030 Sea Level Drive, Suite 217
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901
225-3070 fax: 247-3070
Mike Curran, Area Forester

Southwest Field Office (Seasonal)

Box 130
McGrath, Alaska 99627
524-3010 fax: 524-3932
Judy Reese, Fire Mgmt. Officer

Alaska State Foresters

Earl Plaurde	October 1959 to June 1968
William Sacheck	July 1968 to June 1974
George Hollett	July 1974 to June 1976
Theodore Smith	July 1976 to April 1982
John Sturgeon	May 1982 to June 1986
George Hollett (acting)	July 1986 to February 1987
John Galea	March 1987 to May 1988
Tom Hawkins (acting)	June 1988 to December 1988
Malcolm "Bob" Dick	January 1989 to November 1992
Dean Brown (acting)	December 1992 to February 1993
Tomas Boutin	March 1993 to January 1997
Dean Brown (acting)	January 1997 to July 1997
Jeff Jahnke	July 1997 to present

This publication was released by the Alaska Department of Natural Resources to provide information about operations of the Division of Forestry during 1999. 550 copies of the report were printed in Anchorage, Alaska at a cost of \$3.79 per copy.

The 1999 Annual Report was produced by Patricia Joyner, Division of Forestry.
Design and layout by Robin Hall, Division of Mining, Land & Water, Technical & Data Management Section, Graphics Unit.



Alaska Department of
**NATURAL
RESOURCES**