Alaska Department of Natural Resources

Division of Forestry

2000

ANNUAL REPORT

Alaska State Forester's Office
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Alaska Division of Forestry

As a division within the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, 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;

• Manages the Haines and Tanana Valley state forests (over two million acres);

• Conducts timber sales for personal and commercial use and for fuel-wood;

• Administers Community Forestry, Conservation Education, Forest Health, and Stewardship programs.

• Gives technical assistance to forest landowners;

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

In 2000 the division employed 68 people full-time, 150 seasonally, approximately 754 emergency firefighters, and 12 student interns.

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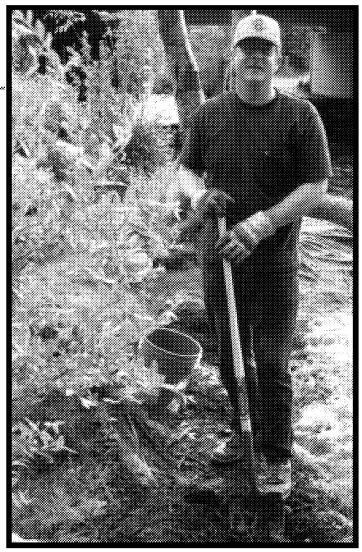


Community Forestry Coordinator John See plants trees along Campbell Creek in Anchorage. (Patricia Joyner)

Smokey Bear entertains the crowd in a parade in Soldotna. (Sharon Kilbourn-Roesch)

State Forester's Comments

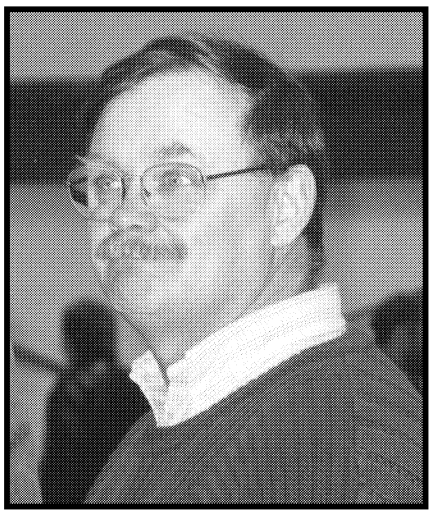
Whether you view the year 2000 or the coming year 2001 as the first year of the new millenium, now is a good time to reflect on the achievements in forestry and look to the future.

The one constant we can depend upon is change. The forest products industry has seen significant changes that are affecting the allowable cut from the Tongass, continued depressed market prices, misfortune in the chipping industry on the Kenai Peninsula, and mill closures. The division has worked hard to make value-added timber sales available, to support value-added sales for small operators in Southeast, to offer a steady supply of wood for chipping, and to maintain a reliable forest land base. At the same time, we maintain the precepts of sustainable forest management, public involvement, and multiple uses, as demonstrated by the update of the Tanana Valley State Forest Plan. Our strength lies in being flexible and responsive to change while we work together to support forestry.

Forestry's mission is to *develop, conserve, enhance, and manage the state's forests to provide a sustainable supply of forest resources for Alaska and to manage the wildland fire suppression program.*

In concert with the legislature, the division has identified measures to reflect our progress toward this mission. This framework has helped the Division of Forestry set two major goals for the near future. The first is to complete statewide revision of the forest practices riparian standards in order to ensure that water quality remains high while allowing timber operations. The Board of Forestry has been actively engaged in this process and many of you have contributed to this effort. The second goal is to increase fire prevention activities in the urban interface areas of the state and continue to educate the public on its responsibility to be prepared for fire.

A major conference to implement the FIREWISE prevention program in communities will be held this spring and participation in Project Impact in Anchorage, Kenai, and the Mat-Su is expanding public awareness. Initiatives such as these, combined with ongoing programs in the division, will result in accomplishments we can all take pride in attaining.



State Forester Jeff Jahnke (Dean Brown)

New leadership within the division has given renewed impetus to the Coastal and Northern regions. New ideas, improvements in process, and a greater focus on goals has made the year 2000 extremely productive. A number of staff changes have occurred, providing individuals with new challenges and opportunities.

The new Palmer consolidated facility completed its first year of operation. Alaska had a relatively slow fire season, but had firefighters on assignment out of state into October, assisting with the disastrous fires experienced in the western states.

Please join me in the review of a busy year as reflected in this annual report and you'll gain an appreciation for the diversity and complexity of forestry. I said it last year and I'll say it this year: We have good people and they do good work!

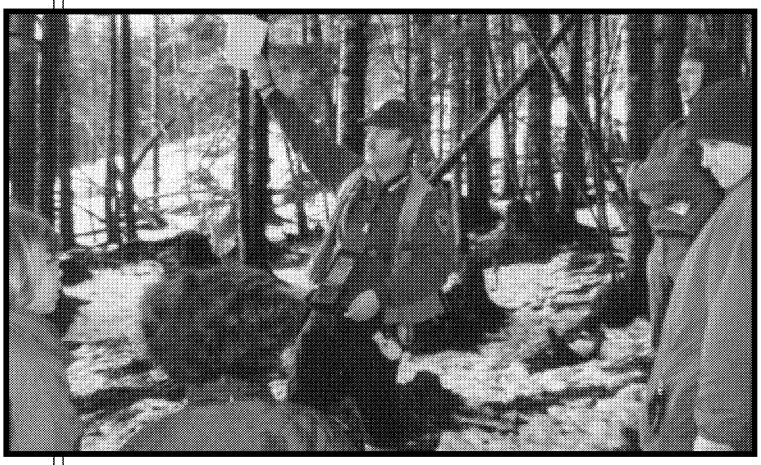
State Forester
Jeff J. Jahnke

Highlights of 2000

Resource Management

- State timber sales provided $245,245 to the state treasury in 2000.
- The division issued 394 personal use fuelwood permits and made 12 personal use house log and saw log sales.
- The division issued 46 commercial saw log and 10 commercial fuelwood contracts. It also issued 24 beach log salvage permits.

Chris O'Brien of Chugach Electric Assn. helps children plant trees on Arbor Day. (Patricia Joyner)



Northern Southeast Area Forester Roy Josephson leads a Project Learning Tree workshop for educators in Haines. (Patty Brown)

- The division planted 327,085 seedlings on 1,643 acres of state land. It scarified an additional 1,722 acres in preparation for planting.
- Forestry registered 69 log brands in 2000, of which 10 were new and 59 were renewals. This is a significant increase over the 37 log brands issued in 1999.
- Forestry staff helped the Kenai Peninsula Global ReLeaf Chapter purchase and distribute 12,000 tree seedlings to private landowners.

- The Community Forestry Program hosted the Pacific Northwest Community Trees Conference. Nearly 100 arborists, foresters, landscape architects, and others attended presentations on ways to develop successful urban forest and open space management programs.
- Wasilla used a Community Forestry Grant to inventory public trees and begin work on a long-range mangement plan and annual maintenance plan for the city's public trees.
- Forest Stewardship Program foresters helped 44 private forest landowners prepare stewardship plans covering 2,673 acres.
- The Forest Stewardship Program allocated $56,000 of federal Stewardship Incentive Program funds to private landowners to implement approved forest management practices.

Saw logs from the Tanana Valley State Forest (Gary Reabold)

Highlights of 2000

Forest Resources & Practices

- The division processed 136 forest practices notifications of timber harvest and 52 renewals of harvest on 47,135 acres.

Chilkat Valley in Haines State Forest (Joel Nudelman)

- Federal funds enabled staff to conduct 187 forest practices field inspections, a significant increase over the 108 inspections made in 1999 and 125 in 1998. The ratio of inspections to acreage in new notifications was the highest since 1991.
- The Board of Forestry held three meetings around the state, discussing the Forest Resources and Practices Act with the public, and working with the administration and the legislature on forestry legislation.

Fire Management

- In cooperation with federal agencies, the division provided fire protection for 150 million acres of private, municipal, and state land.
- During a year of below normal fire activity, 369 wildfires burned nearly 756,300 acres statewide.
- Emergency firefighters collected more than $8 million in state and federal wages.
- The division worked closely with the Spruce Bark Beetle Task Force in accessing and mitigating wildland fire risk in the urban interface areas of the Kenai Peninsula.

Member of the Lower Kalskag crew, which fought fires in Idaho and Montana in 2000. (Steve Heppner)

- Forestry administered federal Rural Community Fire Protection Grants totaling $44,958. The funds allowed volunteer fire departments in 11 communities to train firefighters and purchase tools, equipment, and supplies.
- Forestry acquired 102 items for fire fighting, valued at $326,160, through the Federal Excess Personal Property Program.
- The Division of Forestry provided $4.5 million dollars worth of supplies and equipment to the Lower 48 during this record-breaking fire season. Forestry provided twice as much warehouse support as all other states combined.

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 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 usually 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.

Highlights

The FRPA continues to effectively protect water quality and fish habitat, while supporting successful timber and fishing industries. Thanks to federal Section 319 funding, Forestry was able to increase field presence this year to ensure that the FRPA is implemented properly.

In 2000, the Division of Forestry:

- Cooperated with other resource agencies and affected interests to complete review of riparian standards to further strengthen the FRPA in the Interior and to tailor it to regional conditions. The Science & Technical Committee finished its work and the Implementation Group reached consensus on all issues and presented a draft of statutory and regulatory changes to the Board of Forestry.
- Completed analysis of 1999 implementation monitoring.
- Increased the number of forest practices inspections.
- Collaborated with the other resource agencies to clarify standards and procedures for stream classification and fish sampling in Region I (Coastal Alaska), work that will continue in 2001.
- Completed phase I of research on Tanana River Dynamics and presented the results to the Board of Forestry and at the International Wood in World Rivers Conference.
- Published and distributed updated copies of the FRPA and regulations field booklets.

Activity Summary

Forest practices activity increased moderately in 2000. The number of Detailed Plans of Operation (DPO) received increased by 20 percent and the acreage in new notifications increased 20 percent (see table on page 5). These changes reflect increased activity in southern Southeast Alaska, particularly in the Ketchikan area, while activity declined in Southcentral. The acreage in new notifications in the Mat-Su and Kenai-Kodiak areas was down sharply from 1999, due to a decline in harvest of trees killed by spruce bark beetles. Weak international timber markets continued to affect export operations. Only one new notification was received in Interior Alaska in 2000.

Notifications, inspections, enforcement The Division of Forestry received and reviewed 137 DPOs for private, municipal, and state lands in 2000. The division also conducted 187 field inspections. The number of inspections increased in 2000 for the first time since 1994, thanks to an increase in 319 funding. Significantly, the ratio of inspections to acreage in new notifications was the highest since 1991.

Enforcement activity was up somewhat in 2000. Forestry issued one notice of violation, three stop-work orders, and six directives. Most of these issues were resolved promptly after the enforcement actions were issued. One stop-work order raised issues

Forest Resources & Practices Act Administrative Activities on Private Land

Region	New Harvest Plan Notifications			Harvest Plan Renewals			Acreage in New Notifications			Number of Inspections			Variation Requests		
	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000
Coastal Region															
SSE	87	79	104	31	23	28	16291	11706	24321	56	32	89	3	6	14
NSE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mat-Su/SW	4	3	4	15	16	11	5116	7246	13312	12	19	46	0	0	0
Kenai-Kodiak	27	32	28	13	10	13	7457	17586	9502	57	57	52	0	0	0
Region total	**118**	**114**	**136**	**59**	**49**	**52**	**28,864**	**36,538**	**47,135**	**125**	**108**	**187**	**3**	**6**	**14**
Northern Region															
Copper River	2	0	0	0	0	0	2546	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Delta	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fairbanks	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	90	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tok	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Region total	**2**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**2,546**	**0**	**90**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
State total	**120**	**114**	**137**	**59**	**49**	**52**	**31,410**	**36,538**	**47,225**	**125**	**108**	**187**	**3**	**6**	**14**

Region	Variation Trees Reviewed			Acreage Reviewed for Reforestation Exemptions			Acres Reviewed for Reforestion Compliance			Notification of FRPA Violation			Road Miles in New Notification		
	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000
Coastal Region															
SSE	4,113	1,522	330	0	0	0	0	0	1,722	1	0	0	104	101	130
NSE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Mat-Su/SW	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	160	0	0	0	0	3	26	0
Kenai-Kodiak	0	0	0	0	13,874	3,843	0	0	0	0	0	1	50	146	44
Region total	**4,113**	**1,522**	**330**	**0**	**13,874**	**3,843**	**0**	**160**	**1,722**	**2**	**0**	**1**	**157**	**273**	**174**
Northern Region															
Copper River	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	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	0	0	0
Tok	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	376	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Region total	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**376**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**5**	**0**	**0**
State total	**4,113**	**1,522**	**330**	**0**	**13,874**	**3,843**	**0**	**536**	**1,722**	**2**	**0**	**1**	**162**	**273**	**174**

about stream classification procedures that led to an appeal. The division is working with landowners in Region I and the Department of Fish and Game to clarify these procedures. The increase in enforcement actions results from a combination of increased agency field presence and a "breaking-in period" while agency staff and operators gain experience in implementing recent changes to the Act and regulations.

Implementation monitoring The implementation monitoring required by the FRPA helps to:

- Assess how well the Best Management Practices (BMPs) are being applied
- Assure that the measures for controlling nonpoint source pollution are being implemented
- Identify training needs
- Determine whether the BMPs are workable on the ground.

In 2000, Forestry completed analysis of the 1999 BMP implementation monitoring audit and presented a final report to the Board of Forestry. The audit assessed how well 38 selected BMPs were being implemented. The audit covered timber harvest on about 20 percent of the timber harvesting activity on private land in Southeast Alaska from 1996 to 1998. During this period, 32 of the BMPs audited were adequately implemented. Two of the BMPs not adequately implemented had potential to affect water quality. The division recommends additional operator training in applying these BMPs, and routine monitoring of their application in the field. Mitigation to protect water quality was necessary in only one percent of the cases examined.

Forestry conducted a pilot implementation monitoring study in Region II in 2000. Based on the results, the division will design a monitoring program for Region II in 2001. The division also participated in two effectiveness monitoring studies conducted by the Alaska Forest Association and Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska. Forestry participated in technical review of work plans and quality assurance plans.

Reforestation Exemptions Private salvage harvesting of bark beetle killed timber continued in the Kenai-Kodiak area. As a result, the division continued to receive requests for exemptions from FRPA reforestation requirements. However, many of the requests were for smaller areas than in past years. In 2000, 12 requests were received, four from Native corporations and eight from other private landowners. Forestry reviewed 3,843 acres for exemptions, approved exemptions on 2,893 acres, and denied them on 950 acres. This is down from 13,874 acres reviewed for exemptions in 1999. No new exemption requests were received for the Copper River Area. On state land, DNR reforests all salvage areas.

Training Forestry held training sessions in Ketchikan to review the 1999 changes to the FRPA and regulations, to discuss proper field implementation, and to clarify other aspects of the Act. Forest practices staff from Forestry, the Department of Fish and Game, and Department of Environmental Conservation participated in the training. Over 50 representatives from the private sector also participated. Forestry staff also provided forest practices training to the managers and operators of Browning Timber Company in Icy Bay.

FRPA Budget State funding for the FRPA was level in Fiscal Year 2001. However, federal Section 319 funding increased, providing adequate funding for the program for the first time in eight years. Forestry had 6.5 full-time equivalent positions funded for forest practices in FY 00, spread over 12 positions. For the first time, the division had funding for a half-time forest practices position for the Northern Region, which covers all of interior Alaska and the Copper River area.

This small staff coordinates forest practices work among the resource agencies, reviews notifications, conducts field inspections and enforcement actions, does implementation monitoring, provides training, and leads review and development of FRPA standards. DNR depends on federal funding for forest practices, and there is no guarantee that federal funds will continue to be available. Harvest activity under the FRPA in 2001 is expected to be similar to that in 2000.

Staff Changes Forestry hired Greg Staunton as the third forester in the Southern Southeast office based in Ketchikan. Ken Bullman became Anchorage/Mat-Su/Southwest Area Forester based in Palmer, and Marc Lee was named Fairbanks Area Forester. Pete Buist now fills Marc's former position as head of the Fairbanks Area forest management program.

Forestry promoted Jim Eleazer to Coastal Region Forester, and Joel Nudelman to Coastal Region Inventory and GIS Forester. These changes bolster the forest practices program and increase support to the division's value-added timber sale program.

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 proposed changes to the Alaska Forest Resources and Practices Act and its regulations. Board members are appointed to three-year terms by the governor to represent a variety of forest-related interests.

The board met three times in 2000. Main topics of discussion included:

- Funding for forest practices, including Section 319 funding
- Forest practices implementation monitoring
- Riparian standards in Region III (interior Alaska)
- Log transfer facility standards
- Coordination with the Board of Fisheries on implementation of the Sustainable Fisheries Policy
- The Tanana Valley State Forest Management Plan update
- Stream classification and fish sampling issues in Region I (Coastal Alaska)

Log stringer bridge under construction in West Icy Bay. (Joel Nudelman)

- The Alaska Clean Water Action Plan
- Fisheries and forestry research

This year the board reviewed recommendations from the Region III Science & Technical Committee and Implementation Group for changes to the riparian management standards for Interior Alaska. The board endorsed the Implementation Group's recommendations and supports amending the FRPA and regulations.

Tanana River Dynamics

The division began work on phase II of the Tanana River Dynamics Study in the summer of 2000. The project will match current information from satellite images with old photos to provide information on erosion rates over the last 20 years, input of large woody debris from erosion, and the relationship of vegetation type to erosion rates. Phase I of the study compiled information along the Tanana River from Kantishna to Tok. Phase II will complete the mapping from the mouth of the Tanana River to the Kantishna River and from Tok to Northway.

Dr. Robert Ott, Tanana Chiefs Conference project partner, presented the results of phase I of this study at the prestigious Wood in World Rivers Conference held in Corvallis, Oregon in October. This was the only research presented that used geographic information systems as an integral part of the research. The paper generated a lot of interest from the conference participants and put the division in the forefront worldwide for this type of research.

Alaska Clean Water Action Plan

Forestry joined DEC, ADF&G, and the Division of Governmental Coordination in drafting the Alaska Clean Water Action Plan. The plan is designed to better coordinate the state's many programs that address water quality, water quantity, and fish habitat protection. The plan emphasizes that Alaska's priority for water quality protection is prevention of problems through good stewardship, including the forest practices program. When complete, the plan will rank waters for additional data collection or for restoration and recovery actions. Funding, including federal Section 319 funding, will be allocated based on the plan's stewardship priority and ranking of water bodies.

Riparian Standards for Interior Alaska

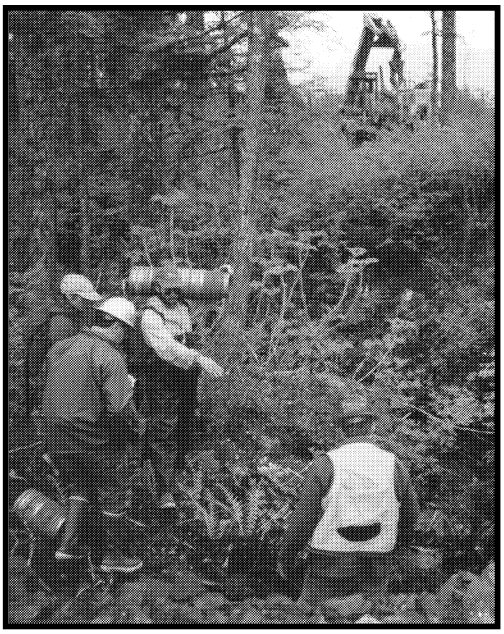
The Science and Technical Committee (STC) completed its work on riparian standards for interior Alaska (Region III). The committee:

- Reviewed existing Region III riparian standards
- Produced an annotated bibliography documenting its extensive literature review on key topics for riparian management in Region III
- Drafted a water body classification system for implementing forest practices in interior Alaska
- Recommended statutory and regulatory changes needed to provide adequate protection for fish habitat and water quality.

DNR and ADF&G convened an implementation group to decide how to implement the consensus recommendations of the STC in a manner that works on the ground, and to draft language for changes to the FRPA and regulations. The 13-member group included representatives from the state resource agencies, the timber and fishing industries, private landowners, and environmental groups. The group reached consensus on all issues, including:

- A water body classification system for forest practices in Region III
- Recommendations for riparian area management
- Raising the threshold for application of FRPA standards in interior Alaska to recognize traditional forest use patterns in remote areas
- Changes or additions to the regulations for slope stability standards, winter road building, and ice crossings
- Revised definitions for lakes and for temporary and permanent roads and crossings in Region III.

Under the recommended changes, riparian areas are established along all water bodies with anadromous or high value resident fish populations. Buffers are required along all anadromous fish waters, and along all high value resident fish streams greater than three feet wide, and lakes. Harvesting up to half the large white spruce is allowed in the landward half of the buffers along glacial waters. Buffers are 66 feet wide on private land and 100 feet wide on public land. Harvest may also be allowed in the landward 33 feet of buffers on non-glacial waters on public land with the concurrence of ADF&G.



Fish trapping to identify anadromous fish waters at Halibut Creek near Hoonah. (Joel Nudelman)

On small, high value resident fish streams, there is a 100-foot riparian area where harvesting must be consistent with the maintenance of important fish and wildlife habitat. Forestry and ADF&G are committed to working together in the summer of 2001 to gather more information on this stream type. Little is known about the distribution of high value resident fish in these streams, about how much they overlap with commercial timber, or what is required for adequate protection of fish habitat.

Forestry will coordinate efforts to adopt these changes in statute and regulation. If adopted, these changes will strengthen riparian protection in Region III, while providing consistent standards that are practical for landowners to implement.

Resource Management

The Division of Forestry manages forests for multiple use and sustained yield of renewable resources on 20 million acres of state land. This includes the Tanana Valley State Forest and Haines State Forest with a combined total of over two million acres. The division conducts personal-use, commercial timber, and fuelwood sales. It emphasizes in-state use of wood for value-added processing.

Forestry, in cooperation with federal agencies, surveys forested lands to assess the impacts of insects and disease and prescribes preventative measures and treatments. Division staff provide technical assistance and administer federal grants to private landowners and local governments to help them establish and properly manage forested lands in both rural areas and urban communities.

Forest Products Market Overview

Northern No major changes were noted in Interior timber markets in 2000. There are still no markets for export or for low quality logs, which has kept stumpage low and reduced the viability of harvesting small or damaged logs. Local sawmills continue to pursue the production of higher profit products. Green lumber remains a common product but many mills now also offer graded or kiln-dried dimension and specialty lumber. Products include flooring, shaped siding, tongue and groove, and shaped logs. Mills are entering the construction business with pre-assembled buildings and house kits.

Southeast Timber manufacturers in Southeast continue to expand their high value-added products and explore different markets. Several small and medium-size mills in southern Southeast are purchasing and putting on line high value-added manufacturing equipment such as re-saws, planers, and dry kilns. Some entrepreneurs are seeking markets for specialty items such as wood for musical instruments and tongue and groove products.

Western red-cedar continued to be highly sought and will continue to be so in the near future. Demand for state timber sales has increased due to the roadless issue and uncertainties of timber supply from the Tongass National Forest.

Kenai Peninsula Most of the timber being harvested on the Kenai Peninsula is beetle-killed or low quality spruce. Prices for logs are generally low except for saw logs from green, uninfested trees, which are becoming scarce. Most harvest operations are on private lands.

The Circle DE Corporation closure in 1999 had a significant effect on the Kenai Peninsula timber industry because it was the main purchaser of utility and low-grade logs. Gates Construction moved to fill the gap by purchasing the chip facility on the Homer Spit and securing a chip market in Japan. It had begun chipping operations when, early in 2000, its sawmill burned down—another setback to the timber industry. Gates Construction has indicated that it does not plan to rebuild the mill.

While the timber industry has declined over the past few years, it continues to make significant contributions to the Kenai Peninsula economy. Gross logging sales within the borough have averaged $23.6 million over the past six years. By comparison, Cook Inlet sockeye salmon commercial fishing values (a mainstay of the borough economy) averaged $27.9 million over the same period.

Matanuska-Susitna Valleys Market demand in the Mat-Su is mainly for spruce sawtimber and house logs, with some sales of birch for firewood, paneling, flooring, and furniture stock. All timber harvested is being used locally, however the chipping facility planned for Point McKenzie may increase the demand for wood fiber for export. The facility, operated by Northwest Pacific Industries, is designed to use an estimated 12 million board feet annually. If it becomes operational, this facility could use timber from south central and the interior Alaska.

Timber Sold and Cut on State Land by Region — Calendar Year 2000

	Volume Sold (MBF)	Volume Cut (MBF)	Volume Offered
Coastal Region	3,516	2,997	11,772
Northern Region	5,487	6,131	13,732
Totals	**9,003**	**9,128**	**25,504**

Table includes both commercial and personal use timber, and assumes that personal use timber is harvested in the year sold.

Timber Sold and Cut on State Land in Commercial Sales

Year	Annual Sales Volume (MBF)	Annual Cut Volume (MBF)	Cut Value
1990	35,783	18,603	$477,580
1991	10,156	16,241	$236,205
1992	10,044	26,543	$1,090,164*
1993	27,169	9,683	$342,581
1994	27,695	27,463	$783,997
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
2000	8,928	9,123	$245,245

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

Conversion Factors

Board foot (bf) = the unit used to measure lumber. 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.

MBF = thousand board feet

MMBF = million board feet

Cubic foot = the unit used to measure volume of wood, regardless of the intended end product.

CCF = hundred cubic feet

Cubic feet are convered to MBF at a rough average of 4bf:cf in the Northern Region

Lineal feet (lf) are converted to MBF assuming a 12" diameter log for house logs = 1 lf = 0.785 cf, assumes 6' diameter log for poles = 1 lf = 0.196 cf

Cord = 85 cubic feet

Commercial & Personal Use Contracts Issued — 2000

	Commercial Use		Personal Use	
Coastal Region	Fuelwood Sales	Saw Log Sales	Fuelwood Permits	House Log & Saw Log Sales
Mat-Su/Southwest	0	5	17	7
Kenai/Kodiak	0	0	0	0
No. Southeast	0	5	0	2
So. Southeast	0	13	0	0
Region Totals	**0**	**23**	**17**	**9**
Nothern Region				
Delta	3	6	75	0
Fairbanks	4	15	207	3
Tok	2	2	59	0
Valdez/Copper River	1	0	36	0
Region Totals	**10**	**23**	**377**	**3**
State Totals	**10**	**46**	**394**	**12**

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

Average Stumpage Price by Species — Calendar Year 2000

Species:	Redcedar	Hardwood	Hemlock	Sitka Spruce	White Spruce	Yellow-cedar
MBF	$97.10	$10.99	$14.98	$47.77	$28.20	$77.00

Southern Southeast

The division continued to focus on sales for in-state value-added processing. From FY '97 to FY'00, Forestry sold 193 sales to 106 different purchasers for in-state processing, including 59 sales in FY'00 alone. Sale volumes for **calendar year** 2000 are down, in part due to timing of the reporting period (**fiscal year** '00 sales were comparable to recent years) and in part due to markets. Over 25 million board feet (MMBF) of timber was offered during calendar year 2000, but only nine MMBF was purchased.

The Ketchikan Area is now called the Southern Southeast Area and has increased its responsibilities to include Wrangell, Petersburg, and Kake. The office processes and inspects forest practices notifications and prepares and administers timber sales.

The Central/Southern Southeast Area Plan, covering all state lands from Stevens Passage to Hyder, was completed and adopted in the fall of 2000. SSE Area staff helped to develop and review this land use plan. Adoption of the plan clarified the management intent language and timber base for state timber sales in a large portion of the Southern Southeast Area.

The SSE Area Office sold seven value-added sales, ranging from one to nine acres, on Prince of Wales Island for a total volume of 1,040 MBF. Three other value-added sales, ranging from one to three acres, were salvaged from the Goose Creek burn that occurred near Thorne Bay in 1998. Two of these sales have been sold and one is pending. All the small sales require manufacture in sawmills on the island.

Three small value-added sales were prepared south of Edna Bay on Kosciusko Island, west of Prince of Wales. One sale was sold to a local mill operator at Edna Bay. The operator provides employment and sells a portion of his milled lumber locally, which strengthens the economy of this remote community. Two sales were also prepared in the Petersburg area for two small mill owners who produce value-added and high value-added products for use in Petersburg.

Foresters from Juneau and Haines assisted the SSE Area Office in completing the field layout for a 2.5-million board foot sale in the Thorne Bay area on Prince of Wales Island. This sale requires high value-added manufacture, and will be sold early in 2001. Requests for proposals will be solicited from qualifying mill owners in the area.

The SSE Area Office has begun the field layout on two pre-commercial thinning projects — a 50-acre project near Ketchikan and a 100-acre project in the Thorne Bay area. After the field work is completed, proposals will be solicited in the spring of 2001. These will be the first pre-commercial thinning projects on state land in Southern Southeast Alaska.

Haines State Forest

Timber harvest operations in the Haines State Forest continue to focus on salvaging beetle-killed spruce. There are four active small sawmill operations in the Haines Area and another four operate occasionally. Operators harvested 336,000 board feet to produce primarily rough cut lumber, house logs, and firewood for local sales.

Pre-commercial thinning of areas harvested in the late 1970s has continued every year since it began in 1993. This year 89 acres were thinned, with a total of 1,318 acres thinned since 1993. Thinning has ranged from 12- to 20-foot spacing between trees. Thinning creates fewer, but larger, trees in a shorter period and 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 of 6 to 14 inches.

The division also pruned trees in a 23-acre area that was thinned in 1993. This year the dominant crop trees, about one-half the remaining trees, were pruned up to a 16-foot height. Pruning second growth trees at this stage promotes development of clear wood, which will improve the potential value of the product when it is harvested.

New Staff The division hired Greg Staunton to fill the Coastal Region Resource Forester position and transferred the position to Ketchikan. Greg works on regional resource plans and projects and assists with timber sale layout in Southeast. Greg brings 12 years of timber sale and resource management experience to the division and is a welcome asset to the timber sale and resource management programs.

Kenai Peninsula

Timber harvest operations on state sales were slow in 2000. Harvesting occurred, but was not completed, on the Schilter and Tower sales located near Moose Pass. The Happy Sale, located near Happy Valley, was completed, planted, and closed out. The Madson sale, located near Moose Pass, was also cleaned up and closed out.

The Kenai-Kodiak Area Office offered three timber sales in the fall of 2000 but received no bids. The Caribou Hills re-offer, Small Lake I, and Ninilchik Hills sales, with a total volume of approximately 6.6 million board feet, all involved the salvage of beetle-killed trees. The contracts would have required the purchaser to reforest harvested areas. The significant decline in market values for chips and pulp logs, combined with reforestation requirements reduced interest in the sales. The costs of seedlings, site preparation, and planting make the state's sales less desirable than similar sales on private lands where reforestation after harvest is not required. However, reforestation of beetle-killed stands provides a multitude of long-term public benefits and is a good investment of public funds.

Hazard Tree Removal Stands of beetle-killed trees have long posed a serious wildfire threat to recreational sites on the Kenai Peninsula. Based on recommendations by the Spruce Bark Beetle Task Force, and in partnership with the state Division of Parks & Outdoor Recreation, Forestry and the Kenai Emergency Fire Crew removed dead spruce trees in the Stariski, Johnson Lake, Kasilof River, Halibut, Ninilchik, and Clam Gulch campgrounds.

The crew felled and bucked hundreds of dead trees and burned the slash, resulting in safer and more attractive campgrounds. The Kenai Peninsula Borough funded this project as part of its effort to minimize the threat of catastrophic wildfires.

Spruce Bark Beetle Task Force The Kenai Peninsula Borough has created two advisory panels associated with their Spruce Bark Beetle Task Force — a reforestation technical committee and a fire science technical committee. Forestry staff participated on both panels to assist the borough in addressing bark beetle impacts. The borough has received $2 million in federal funds for this program and will receive an additional $7.5 million early in 2001.

A logging road that has been closed following the Falls Creek Sale on the Kenai Peninsula. (Jim Peterson)

Bark Beetle Surveys The spruce beetle has caused extensive damage to Kenai Peninsula spruce forests over the last decade. Spruce beetle populations have declined significantly as spruce beetles have removed most of the larger, susceptible trees. However, in recent years, foresters have noticed that many small diameter trees that had survived the main outbreak or were retained during harvest have now succumbed to bark beetle attacks. These smaller spruce *residuals* are important for advanced regeneration, wildlife habitat, aesthetics, and recreational aspects in stands that have been significantly impacted and reduced. Concerns about the deaths of these smaller diameter spruce and questions about which bark beetle species are killing trees, prompted the division to begin a survey of selected stands.

State and federal forestry specialists, and a crew of Kenai/Kodiak Area technicians began a field survey of a cross section of unharvested stands and stands that were harvested recently and long ago, to determine the extent of bark beetle losses in the residual small diameter spruce.

The field surveys recorded which bark beetle species caused mortality, tree size, and species of trees encountered, including hardwoods, down to one-inch diameter. Surveys began in the summer and continued through the winter of 2000/2001. The data will be used to estimate the extent of infestation in the residual spruce stands across the peninsula. A summary, to be completed in 2001, will describe the data and any forest management implications of the secondary bark beetle mortality in the stands.

Northern Region

With profit margins slim, Interior operators were selective in bidding on sales in 2000. In Fairbanks only half the sales received bids during the initial offering. This has left a good supply of timber available for purchase over the counter, where it has been purchased over time as needs arise.

Valdez/Copper River Area staff began the spring season by cruising timber for BLM on land selected by the state and by Chitina Native Corporation. BLM may offer a timber sale in the future and put sale receipts in escrow for the future landowner.

Area staff also worked with the Department of Transportation & Public Facilities to prepare contracts to offer personal use permits for timber being cut at the Cordova Airport. The U.S. Forest Service gave a $50,000 grant to DOT/PF to move the timber to a public access point.

In Delta, some mills ran short of wood, but may be able to replenish their log supply if late year offerings and existing winter sales can be harvested this winter. In Tok, salvage from recent fires is still being used along with new green timber.

Delta Resource Forester Steve Joslin stands on the Delta Creek winter road, where vegetation typical of that covering a winter road is flourishing. (Al Edgren)

Matanuska-Susitna Valleys

The Anchorage/Mat-Su/Southwest Area Office is administering six timber sale contracts containing two million board feet of white spruce and cottonwood sawtimber. Five timber sales contracts were sold in 2000 with a total volume of 1.05 million board feet and a total price of $46,625. Staff also upgraded two miles of forest road, planted 6,000 seedlings, and made 30 timber sale inspections.

Area staff are also working with Alaska Department of Fish & Game and the Ruffed Grouse Society to improve wildlife habitat on the Matanuska Valley Moose Range.

Student Intern Program Ten students enrolled in the natural resource management program at the King Career Center in Anchorage worked from early June through early August on projects for the Anchorage/Mat-Su/Southwest Area.

Under the direction of Debby Broneske, the students cruised timber sales, marked timber sale boundaries, surveyed forest roads, cleared trails in state parks and on BLM lands, planted 6,000 seedlings, and gathered data for reforestation surveys.

Interns received training on the Stewardship Program, Community Forestry Program, forest entomology, bear safety, forest measurement equipment, fire suppression tactics and equipment, processing timber cruise and reforestation survey data, and use of the GPS System. Three students worked on fire assignments at the end of the intern work season.

Ruffed Grouse Habitat Improvement

The Division of Forestry, Department of Fish and Game, and Ruffed Grouse Society continue habitat improvements 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. The project provides a unique opportunity for long-term cooperative management by the state's foresters, wildlife biologists, and the Ruffed Grouse Society.

Young, vigorously growing aspen and birch stands, which are important sources of food and cover for grouse, are in short supply in the area due, in part, to years of fire suppression. Timber harvesting creates this type of habitat, which also benefits snowshoe hares, lynx, moose, goshawks, great horned owls, and several species of migratory songbirds that use early to mid-successional habitats. Over the 40-year cycle of this project, 800 acres will be harvested to create habitat for 100 breeding pairs of ruffed grouse, resulting in 20,800 ruffed grouse and improved conditions for hunters.

The Department of Fish and Game allocated funds appropriated by the Alaska Legislature for wildlife habitat improvement to Forestry to support this project. The Ruffed Grouse Society also donated money raised at its annual banquet in Fairbanks.

The division used these funds to lay out 35 acres of aspen to be felled. Boreal Forest Products then cut the 35 acres and skidded 16 acres in November at $300 per acre for felling and $750 per acre for skidding for a total of $22,500.

Forestry and ADF&G are studying the effects on grouse of just felling the aspen and not removing it. Aspen respond with prolific regeneration after being felled and in other areas of the country, leaving the felled aspen creates shade and reduces the amount of regeneration. Felled trees also provide cover for ruffed grouse predators, negatively impacting grouse populations. The study will look at this practice to see if the trend holds true for the Interior.

A sixth 30-acre prescribed burn was planned for the spring of 2000, however, it was not conducted due to wet conditions. Another prescribed burn is planned for the spring of 2001.

The participants hoped to clear at least 200 acres each decade through the year 2030. Over the past six years, project managers have constructed 7.5 miles of forest roads, felled 377 acres of mature aspen in 34 cutting units ranging from 6 to 20 acres, and burned 50 acres. The 200-acre goal for this decade was met in just four years.

Beach Log Salvage

The Beach log salvage program in southeast Alaska allows operators to recover valuable forest products from the coastal waters and beaches of the state.

In 2000, Forestry issued or renewed 24 beach log salvage licenses. Operators may apply for a license that is in effect for four years with annual renewal and fee payments.

At the end of the year, 24 of the 57 identified salvage areas in southeast Alaska were under license. this is less than 50 percent of the areas identified by DNR as suitable for salvage activity. Nearly 100 percent of the identified areas were licensed a few years ago when a strong market for logs created greater demand. However, the division still receives inquiries about the beach log salvage program.

Log Brands

In 2000, the Division of Forestry registered 69 log brands. Of these 10 were new and 59 were renewals. This is a significant increase over the 1999 totals when 19 new brands were issued and 19 renewed. In addition, Chuck Lesher, administrative assistant in Juneau, produced a new log brand book for the first time in five years.

Reforestation

Regeneration of harvested or naturally disturbed areas is an essential component 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. Forestry cooperates with other agencies to conduct research for success in seedling survival.

This year, 327,085 seedlings were grown from the division's seed depository and planted on 1,643 acres. Planting was mostly on the Kenai Peninsula in response to impacts from the spruce beetle. An additional 107 acres were scarified for natural regeneration. The division also provided seed to nonprofit organizations that grow seedlings for private forest landowners in Alaska.

As in 1999, no seed was collected in 2000 due to a poor spruce cone crop. Good spruce cone production is irregular and the division makes collections during good cone years. Germination testing of previous seed collections is ongoing using services of the Division of Agriculture, Plant Materials Center.

Forestry contributed to the Alaska Reforestation Council's workshop on reforestation for carbon sequestering. Some utility companies have been financing reforestation to offset carbon emissions. The division is exploring carbon credits as a means of helping pay for reforestation when possible.

Forest regeneration at Ohio Creek in the Tanana Valley State Forest. These spruce were planted in 1993. (Gary Reabold)

Reforestation on State Land - 2000

Areas	Seedlings Planted	Acres Planted	Acres Scarified
Delta	0	0	46
Fairbanks	0	0	0
Kenai/Kodiak	321,085	1,629	1,629
Haines	0	0	0
Mat-Su	6,000	14	14
Tok	0	0	47
Totals	327,085	1,643	1,722

Kenai Peninsula Most of the reforestation on the Kenai this year was done on the Caribou Hills Timber Sale. The sale was not completed due to the closure of Circle DE Pacific Corporation. However, the division had retained reforestation deposits and bonds, and Circle DE had ordered seedlings. Forestry took delivery of the seedlings and contracted out for site preparation and planting. A total of 283,000 seedlings were planted on this sale.

The remaining 38,085 seedlings were planted on the Happy Timber Sale. Yeck & Sons, the purchaser of the sale, procured the seedlings, completed the site preparation and contracted out hand planting of the seedlings.

All harvesting on state lands on the Kenai over the last five years has been to salvage timber killed by the spruce beetle. Regeneration of these heavily impacted stands has been a primary objective of these salvage operations. In 2000, the division conducted regeneration surveys on 152 acres cut five years ago. All areas surveyed met the minimum stocking requirements of the Forest Resources and Practices Regulations, which is the standard of success.

Alaska State Forests

About two percent of state land in Alaska is in two designated state forests. In 1982, the legislature established the 247,000-acre Haines State Forest in southeast Alaska. The following year the legislature created the 1.8-million-acre Tanana Valley State Forest in the Interior. 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, commerical, 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 recreaton 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.

Northland Wood logging truck heading to the mill on the Standard Creek Road in the Tanana Valley State Forest. (Gary Reabold)

Management Plan Updates The division began the public process to update the Haines State Forest Management Plan in 2000. The updates are needed primarily because of increased commercial recreation uses on the forest. The original plan was completed in 1986 and did not envision the current level of commercial recreation operations.

The division is also working on updates of the Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve Management Plan and the Northern Southeast Area Plan because both the NSE Area and the preserve share common borders with the state forest. These plans are being revised at the same time because recreation operations often cross ownership and plan boundaries.

The update of the Tanana Valley State Forest Management Plan is also nearing conclusion. This is the first complete update of the state forest plan since the original plan was adopted in 1988. Five working groups, a citizens' advisory committee, a subcommittee representing Cache Creek interests, an interagency planning team, and many agency and public members spent countless hours examining issues, recommending solutions, and modifying the plan.

A six-week public comment period ending in November resulted in comments from 55 people. Many changes were made to the plan as a result of public comments. Besides the traditional mailings of plan copies and a descriptive brochure, the full draft and supporting documents were made available on the DNR website.

The division was pleased to receive several comments from the public, organized groups, and the Board of Forestry praised Forestry for its open public process and the opportunity for so much participation. The division expects to sign the new plan in early 2001.

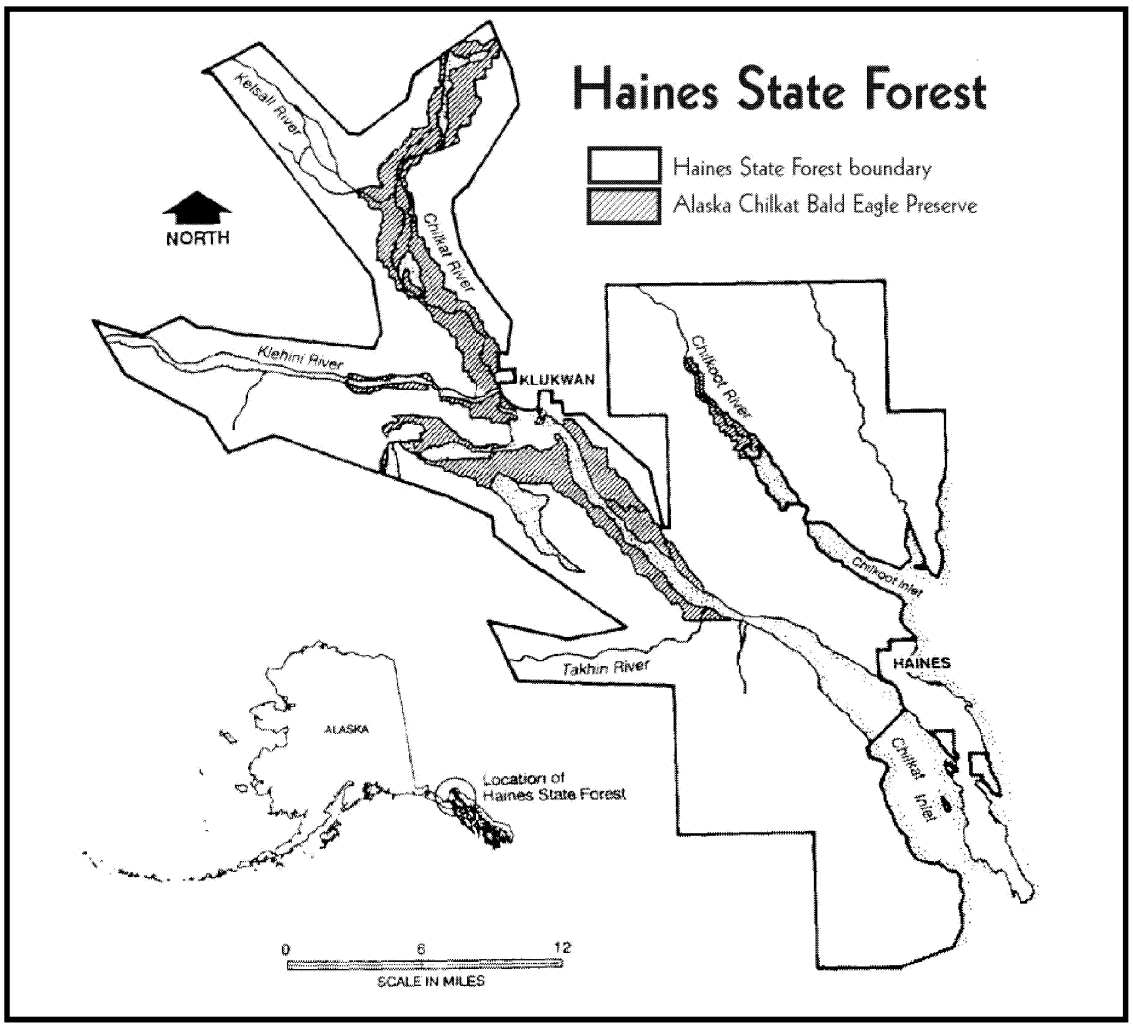
Haines State Forest

The Haines State Forest contains 270,410 acres, including the watersheds of some of the major tributaries to the Chilkat River. Located in a transition zone between the moderate and wet coastal climate and the dry, cold interior, the forest provides suitable conditions for a diversity of vegetation. The rugged topography ranges from sea level to 7,000 feet.

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, which has occurred in the forest since the 1960s. The annual allowable harvest is 6.96 million board feet. Although natural regeneration occurs readily, all large commercial sales have been replanted since the 1970s.

Prospectors and miners have worked in this mineral-rich area since the turn of the century and continue operating today. Backcountry logging roads, rivers, and hiking trails provide access to remote areas and abundant recreational opportunities. Hunting, fishing, berry-picking, camping, hiking, snow machining, and skiing are popular activities. Several commercial operators provide tours in the forest.

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 the state Division of Parks & Outdoor Recreation.



The Haines State Forest covers 270,410 acres and is managed for multiple uses. Increased ecotourism and recreatonal uses coexist with active timber operations.

Tanana Valley State Forest

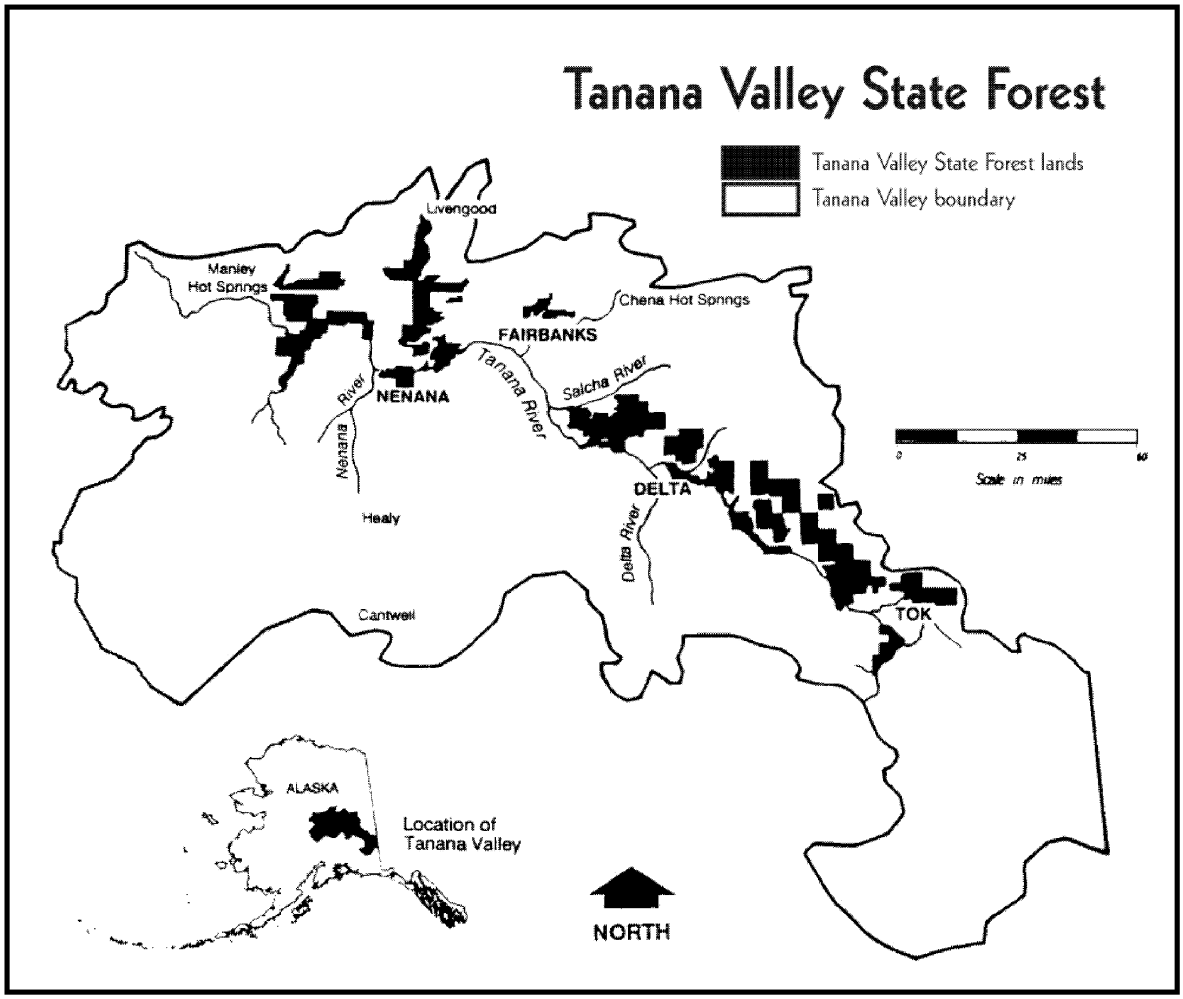
The Tanana Valley State Forest's 1.81 million acres lie almost entirely within the Tanana River Basin, located in the east-central part of Alaska. The forest extends 265 miles, from near the Canadian border to Manley Hot Springs. It varies in elevation from 275 feet along the Tanana River to over 5,000 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 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 in the state forest. About 85 percent of the forest is within 20 miles of a state highway. Adjacent to the forest are 18 communities with a total of 70,000 residents.

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 birch, quaking aspen, balsam poplar, black spruce, white spruce, and tamarack.

Forest Health Management

2000 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 27 million acres were surveyed. This was the second year of overall decreased insect activity. However, some areas not usually affected by insect damage, such as Sleetmute and Elim, did have damage in 2000. The most important diseases and declines in Alaska's forests are chronic conditions and remain relatively unchanged.

Insect and Animal Damage

The total area of active **spruce beetle** infestation decreased in 2000 to 86,038 acres, continuing the decline that began 1997. In areas that have been heavily impacted recently, such as Iliamna Lake, the Copper River Valley, the west side of Cook Inlet, the Anchorage Bowl, the northern Kenai Peninsula, and the eastern portion of Kachemak Bay, population levels declined dramatically because the beetles have run out of live spruce to attack. Some active areas persist, where suitable host material remains or where newly disturbed areas allow spruce beetle populations to increase. Spruce beetle activity was identified in two new areas —around the community of Sleetmute and near Elim on Norton Sound.

Spruce beetle activity in southeast Alaska was at a low of 2,700 acres, down from a high of 35,700 acres in 1996 and down from 6,556 acres in 1999. Much of the activity was in the Chilkoot and Chilkat drainages near the Canadian border. There were only 200 acres of activity in Glacier Bay National Park, east of Gustavus, and 100 acres on the outer islands west of Prince of Wales Island. No new acres were infested along the Taku River near the Canadian border.

Spruce needle aphid defoliation occurred on 36,000 acres in southeast Alaska from Cape Decision, at the southern tip of Kuiu Island, to Yakutat Bay. Most of the defoliation was in the Juneau area and northwest of Juneau in Glacier Bay National Park. A smaller amount of defoliation was distributed along the western half of Baranof and Chichagof islands. Sitka spruce were affected along the beach fringe and higher on mountain slopes.

Large aspen tortrix defoliation continued its decline in 2000, with 5,576 acres mapped. Aspen leaf miner was prevalent throughout interior Alaska.

Spruce budworm activity along the Yukon River appears to have collapsed. Approximately 41,000 acres of white spruce north of Fort Yukon on the Christian River was lightly defoliated. The cause is not known but may be spruce budworm or spruce bud moth.

Willow leaf blotchminer defoliation continued for the third consecutive year, with nearly 35,000 acres of defoliated willow detected in 2000. In the last two years, most of the willow defoliation was in the upper Yukon and Porcupine River valleys. Blotchminer defoliation was found as far west and south as McGrath.

Larch sawfly continues to be active throughout the larch's range in interior Alaska. Defoliation, however, was significantly reduced over 1999 levels. Approximately 65,000 acres of defoliated larch were detected this year versus more than 190,000 acres in 1999. In many of the previously defoliated areas, patches of dead larch are appearing; due either 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 once again reported defoliating ornamental larch in the Mat-Su Valley and Anchorage Bowl. This was likely an accidental introduction.

Hemlock sawfly defoliated 5,200 acres in southeast Alaska, concentrated in Kasaan Bay, Prince of Wales Island, Burroughs Bay north of Ketchikan, and Windham Bay east of Admiralty Island.

Porcupines and **brown bears** continue to feed on and damage several conifer species in localized areas of Southeast.

Diseases

The most important diseases and declines of forests in 2000 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.

Hollow tree cavities created by heart rot fungi, and witches' brooms caused by hemlock dwarf mistletoe and broom rust fungi, enhance wildlife habitat.

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

About 500,000 acres of **yellow-cedar decline** have been mapped across an extensive portion of Southeast. Snags of yellow-cedar accumulate on affected sites and forest composition is substantially altered as yellow-cedar dies, giving way to other tree species. The wood in dead standing trees remains valuable long after the tree dies and salvage opportunities for this valuable resource are now being recognized.

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, primarily caused by the red belt fungus, continues to rapidly develop on and degrade spruce bark beetle-killed trees.

Spruce needle rust occurred at high levels in several areas of southeast Alaska for the second consecutive year. Cone and other foliar diseases of conifers were generally at low levels throughout Alaska. **Canker fungi** were at endemic levels, causing substantial, but unmeasured, damage to hardwood species in south-central and interior Alaska.

Other Significant Damage

Three introduced pests are causing concern in the Anchorage area. The **Sitka spruce weevil** and the **European black slug** may become established in Alaska if detection and eradication methods are not employed early.

Bird vetch, *Vicca cracca*, has been observed as an aggressively invasive plant along the Seward Highway south of Anchorage. It has also been spotted along trails in Chugach State Park and in neighborhoods throughout Anchorage.

Statewide Aerial Surveys

USDA Forest Service and Division of Forestry entomologists conduct annual aerial mapping to document the areas where forest damage is occurring — areas with current defoliation or recently killed trees. Trained observers in fixed-wing aircraft prepare 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. Areas of flooding, wind damage, and landslides are included in survey notes but are not mapped as extensively as insect and disease damage. The extent of significant diseases, such as stem and root decays, are not included since this damage is not visible from aerial surveys.

Entomologists question state and federal agencies and other landowners to determine high priority areas for mapping. They also 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 (e.g. at this scale, one inch equals about four 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 then 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.

2000 Forest Insect and Disease Activity

The figures below are from *Forest Insect and Disease Conditions in Alaska - 2000*, 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. Ownership is derived from the 1999 land status GIS coverage from the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Land Records Information Section.

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. The table also does not include many of the most destructive diseases (e.g. wood decays and dwarf mistletoe) because these are not detectable in aerial surveys.

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	State & Private	National Forest	Other Federal	Native Corporation	Total 2000	Difference from 1999
Spruce beetle	32,011	1,867	32,958	19,202	86,038	-167,227
Engraver beetle[1]	4,715	0	17,565	667	22,947	19,169
Hemlock sawfly	264	4,552	0	292	5,108	5,019
Larch sawfly	3,839	0	41,993	19,028	64,859	94,401
Spruce budworm	0	0	12,556	28,511	41,066	40,358
Large aspen tortrix	1,991	0	2,107	1,479	5,576	-7,760
Aspen defoliation[2]	3,788	0	2,076	1,103	6,967	6,967
Alder defoliation[2]	147	5,161	261	0	5,570	3,755
Willow defoliation[2]	6,489	0	16,171	13,343	36,002	-144,394
Birch defoliation[2]	461	0	2,160	4	2,625	-128
Cottonwood defoliation[3]	205	5,185	0	0	5,389	-201
Spruce aphid	9,124	22,390	5,325	733	37,572	33,319
Blowdown/windthrow	55	267	0	0	322	-75
Landslide/avalanche	286	615	27	30	957	882
Porcupine damage	0	398	10	0	407	62
Water damage	317	67	55	13	452	-2,120
Total Acres	**63,692**	**40,502**	**133,264**	**84,405**	**321,857**	**-306,775**

[1] Includes acres where both engraver beetles and spruce beetles infest the same area
[2] Significant contributors include leaf miners and leaf rollers
[3] Significant contributors include cottonwood leaf beetle and leaf rollers

Forest Insect Activity 1995 - 2000

This chart shows damage by year and cumulative acreage figures for the entire period. The cumulative total is the number of newly infested acres from 1995 to 2000, not the sum of infested acres each year. The same stand may have had an active infestation for several years. The cumulative total is a GIS computer union of all areas for 1995 through 2000. Totals do not include diseases or other damage such as cedar decline or blow-down.

Acreage is in thousands of acres (for actual number, move the decimal three spaces to the right, e.g., 2.2 is 2,200)

Leaf miners on aspen in Eagle. (Dean Brown)

Damage Agent	1995 Total	1996 Total	1997 Total	1998 Total	1999 Total	2000 Total	Cumulative Totals[1]
Spruce beetle	893.9	1,133.0	563.7	316.8	253.3	86.0	2,046.3
Engraver/spruce beetle[1]	6.7	14.2	8.9	14.3	3.9	23.0	70.1
Hemlock sawfly	1.1	8.3	6.6	3.9	0	5.1	25.2
Larch sawfly	116.9	606.9	267.6	461.8	159.3	64.9	1,544.6
Spruce budworm	279.3	235.9	38.4	87.8	0.7	41.1	501.0
Black-headed budworm	13.0	1.2	30.8	0	0	0	44.9
Large aspen tortrix	32.4	6.4	5.1	21.8	13.3	5.6	81.9
Willow defoliation	5.6	50.1	3.5	123.1	180.4	36.0	338.5
Birch defoliation[2]	0.9	3.2	271.9	0.5	2.8	2.6	280.4
Cottonwood defoliation[3]	3.5	5.4	3.0	6.6	5.6	5.4	29.3
Spruce needle aphid	0.1	0.5	0.5	46.4	4.3	37.6	88.6
Total thousands acres	**1,353.4**	**2,065.1**	**1,200.0**	**1,083.0**	**623.6**	**307.3**	**5,050.8**

[1]Includes areas with *ips* beetles only and areas with both *ips* beetles and spruce beetles
[2]Includes areas with birch defoliation, birch aphid, and birch leaf roller
[3]Includes areas with cottonwood defoliation, cottonwood leaf beetle, and cottonwood leaf miner

Online Insect and Disease Information

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 conditions (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

To request maps or other products from statewide surveys and GIS databases, contact:

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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 help them implement appropriate forest management practices.

2000 Highlights

- Forty-four Alaska landowners prepared and signed forest stewardship plans.
- Three Alaska Native corporations completed forest stewardship plans for their lands.
- Assisted in the purchase and distribution of 10,000 seedlings to private landowners.
- The final $56,000 of Stewardship Incentive Program funds available for use in Alaska was obligated to eligible landowners.
- The program coordinator continued to serve on the Western States Forest Stewardship Committee.

Landowners

Public participation in the Forest Stewardship Program continues to increase. In 2000, 44 landowners signed plans covering 2,673 acres. Since the program began in 1992, a total of 353 forest stewardship plans, covering 27,445 acres, have been developed for landowners. Participation is greated on the Kenai Peninsula, with the Matanuska-Susitna and Tanana valleys also having many participants. The most common management practice continues to be forest health, and many requests for assistance involve options for threatened or beetle-killed spruce. Participating landowners also have strong interests in aesthetics and wildlife. Creating defensible space from wildfire is a growing concern.

Public Services

The Forest Stewardship Program provided a variety of public services to local governments, public schools, and community fairs. Services ranged from general education to technical forestry assistance. Staff assisted Kenai Peninsula Global Releaf with growing and distributing seedlings for private landowners in southcentral Alaska. Foresters also made site visits and referrals for numerous landowners who did not pursue a written stewardship plan.

Cost-Share Programs

The Forest Stewardship Program can help to implement approved management practices through the Stewardship Incentive Program (SIP) and Forest Incentive Program (FIP). Under these federal programs, the U.S. Department of Agriculture can cost-share up to 75 percent of the cost of the practice. However, for the second consecutive year Congress appropriated no new SIP funding, and the federal government issued a deadline of August 1, 2000 for any new SIP applications. As a result, all ongoing projects were reviewed during the summer and non-performing participants were cancelled. The remaining $56,000 of Alaska's SIP funding was allocated among requesting landowners. FIP was funded at $5,000 statewide.Requests for cost-share assistance were high in 2000, with the most common request being a remedy for beetle killed spruce. New approaches to private forestry assistance are being sought throughout the U.S. and may be addressed in the upcoming Farm Bill.

Alaska Native Corporations

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. Three Alaska Native corporations, Klukwan, Paug-Vik, and Dineega, completed Forest Stewardship plans in 2000. The total acreage was 260,232, which contained 61,014 forested acres. This brings the total of Alaska Native corporations with forest stewardship plans to 14, covering 3,051,364 forested acres. Planning projects supported by stewardship planning grants are underway with three other Native corporations. DOF will continue to assist Alaska Native corporations.

Forest Stewardship Committee

The Division of Forestry receives guidance from the Forest Stewardship Committee. The committee is comprised of representatives from a broad range of Alaska private landowner interests. Areas of discussion include grant and cost-share rates, eligibility criteria, and forest stewardship plan requirements. The committee met twice in 2000. One meeting was a field trip in the Fairbanks area to become acquainted with private landowner issues in the interior. Committee members are listed on page 39.

Community Forestry Program

Community, or urban, forestry is the management of forests and related natural resources in communities. The Community Forestry Program helps local governments and communities expand and care for their valuable natural resources. The program:

- encourages and supports sound management of forest ecosystems in Alaska communities
- provides information and training to local governments, tree care professionals, and volunteers
- helps local governments develop and fund ongoing community forest management programs
- fosters partnerships between government, business, and volunteers
- encourages the private sector to support and fund community forestry efforts
- administers federal grants for pilot programs and demonstration projects.

The Alaska Community Forest Council, a nonprofit, citizen advisory group, provides support and advice on development and delivery of the program. Members are listed on page 39.

2000 Highlights

- The program changed its title from Alaska Urban & Community Forestry Program to the Alaska Community Forestry Program
- The program sponsored the Pacific Northwest Community Trees Conference in Anchorage in May. The biennial conference was co-sponsored by state Urban & Community Forestry Programs in Washington, Oregon, and Idaho, and the International Society of Arboriculture. Approximately 100 arborists, foresters, landscape architects, and others attended presentations and field trips on effective strategies for developing successful urban forest and open space management programs.
- Alaska participated, for the second year, in the National Tree Trust Community Tree Planting Program. Grantees in Palmer, Fairbanks, and Soldotna received, potted, and maintained 4,200 seedlings. In addition, volunteers and staff planted 695 seedlings from the 1999 NTT grant. Chugach State Park planted 548 of the seedlings in a nursery for future reforestation projects.
- The City of Wasilla began work on a community forestry program. Following training in May, city employees completed an inventory of trees citywide and compiled the results. City administrators will use the inventory to better plan for routine tree maintenance and develop a planting program. A $15,000 grant from the Community Forestry Program provided the incentive to complete the inventory and to work towards becoming a Tree City USA.
- Three Alaskans passed the ISA Certified Arborist exam, bringing the state's total to 27.

Employees of the City of Wasilla and the Division of Forestry participate in street tree inventory training. (John See)

- Staff developed and printed a program brochure outlining the benefits of community forest management.
- Elmendorf Air Force Base became the state's third Tree City USA in 2000. Fort Richardson and Eielson Air Force Base were re-certified as Tree City USAs.
- Chugach Electric Assn. and Matanuska Electric Assn. were re-certified as Tree Line USA utilities.
- The Alaska Community Forest Council continued its active support of community forestry. The council met four times and held monthly teleconferences.
- Staff made presentations at or sponsored training at seven events, attended by 118 people. Groups included Master Gardeners, community schools, city employees, and professional organizations.

- Staff partnered with TREEmendous Anchorage, a program sponsored by the Mayor's Office and Phillips Alaska Petroleum, to "protect, improve, plant, and educate the public about trees." 2000 projects included:

  - A tree adoption funded by Phillips in which 1,000 families received a tree to plant. Arborists volunteered to answer questions and provide information about tree care to the adoptees.

  - Partnering with Chugach Electric to celebrate Arbor Day at a school and promote "planting the right tree in the right place."

  - Transplanted 102 trees and shrubs from an overcrowded highway planting to an unattractive intersection.

- Community forestry staff coordinated the transplanting of trees and shrubs from the Palmer where they had to be removed:

  - Volunteers from GCI, a local high school, and Community Work Service transplanted 50 trees and shrubs to Midtown Park

  - Staff planted 32 trees and shrubs on the banks of Campbell Creek, where the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and local government and conservation groups restored a severely eroded area and built a fishing deck to reduce further damage.

  - Provided trees to the Anchorage cemetery and native shrubs to the Campbell Tract Science Center for a butterfly garden.

Project Learning Tree

Project Learning Tree (PLT) is an environmental education program designed by and for educators, using the forest as a context for understanding and exploring environmental issues. Attending a PLT workshop gives educators activities and resources to use directly upon returning to their classrooms.

In 2000, the division used Project Learning Tree to train 42 educators in four workshops statewide. In addition, the year saw an increase in the number of teachers taking PLT workshops for graduate level credit. Three of the four workshops were offered for credit and 23 of the 42 educators took advantage of that option.

Of the four workshops offered this year, two were offered in communities that had never had a PLT workshop. With the assistance of Haines Area Forester Roy Josephson, 12 educators and community members were introduced to PLT's elementary and secondary modules in a two-day workshop.

In August, PLT participated in UAA's Summer Science Institute in Akiachak. The Secondary Solid Waste Module was used as a model of how to teach science standards while exploring local issues.

In addition to workshops, PLT activities were used with 150 students and adults in a variety of settings such as the Susitna Girl Scout's Women of Science & Math Day, the Bilingual Educators Conference and Arbor Day activities. PLT provided a program display at three statewide events and conferences.

PLT Coordinator Barbara Bodnar celebrating Arbor Day at Gladys Wood Elementary School in Anchorage. (John See)

Accomplishments were completed in the first half of the year, as PLT Coordinator Barbara Bodnar left the division in July upon the birth of her daughter. The division plans to hire a new Conservation Education Coordinator in the spring of 2001.

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

Wildland Fire Management

The Division of Forestry, Bureau of Land Management, and USDA 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 plan. The plan divides the state into fire protection levels based on major natural fire breaks and the objectives of land managers. Firefighting resources can 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 firefighting 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.

2000 Fire Season

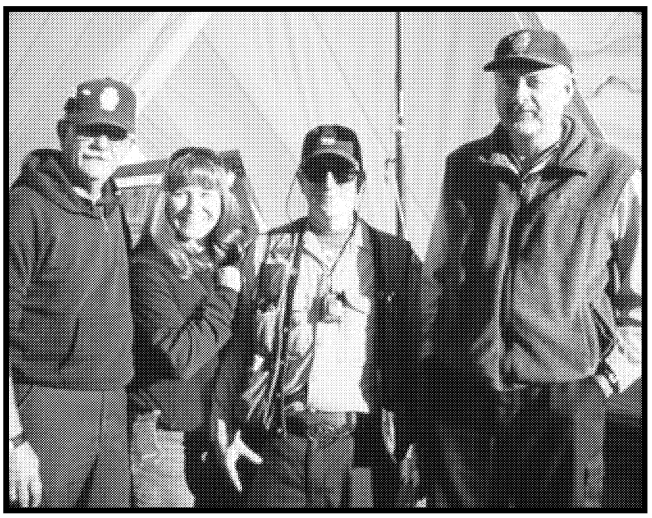
During a year with below average fire activity, 369 wildland fires burned nearly 756,300 acres in Alaska. By comparison, the average for the past 10 years was 630 fires and 978,000 acres burned. The Division of Forestry reported that 35,196.8 acres burned in 260 wildland fires on state protected land. The Bureau of Land Management Alaska Fire Service reported 90 fires burning 721,085 acres in its protection area. The U.S. Forest Service had 19 fires that burned 14.4 acres.

Fires by month in 2000 were as follows:

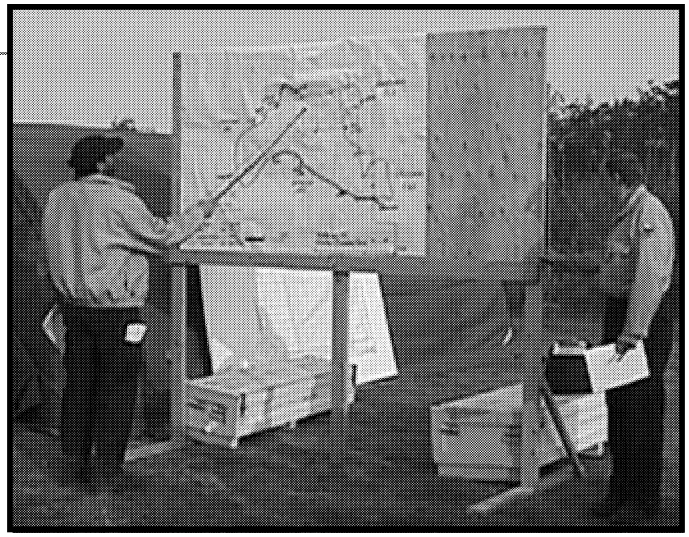
April	15	September	6
May	128	October	0
June	154	November	1
July	40	December	1
August	24		

Fire activity began on April 12 when a tenth-acre fire was reported in the Mat-Su/Southwest Area. The first lightning-caused fire began on April 18 in the Yukon Charlie National Park near Eagle. By the end of the fire season, lightning had ignited 83 fires that burned approximately 740,000 acres.

The largest fire of the 2000 fire season, the Zitziana Fire located on state land south of Tanana, was started by lightning on June 13 and was declared out on September 19 at 164,387 acres. The fire also burned a few acres on federal land.



Bud Rotroff, Karen Gordon, Martin Maricle, and Joe Stam on the Clear Creek Fire.



Tom Dean (left), Mat-Su suppression foreman, presents situational briefing during the Clear Fire with assistance of Allen Martin, Fairbanks Area. (Scott Christy)

The Clear Fire, located on state-protected land near Clear, was reported late in the evening on June 24, burning in black spruce and mixed hardwoods in a Full Protection Area. Initial attack forces arrived the following morning and estimated the size of the fire at 10 acres. By early afternoon, high winds had caused the fire to increase to 100 acres and to burn in the direction of three structures. The fire continued to advance and by evening 150 to 200 acres had burned and a Type II Interagency Management Team was ordered.

The fire consumed 2,777 acres and one structure before it was declared out on August 8. This was the only fire to which a Type II Interagency Management Team was assigned in Alaska during 2000.

Lower 48 Support: The extraordinary fire season in the Lower 48 required nearly all of Alaska's fire resources. The Division of Forestry provided personnel, crews, aircraft, and tons of warehouse items. Forestry provided 340 personnel in support of wildland fire fighting emergencies in 23 states.

The division mobilized 26 Type II fire crews of 20 people each to wildfires in six states. The Tazlina Type I Hotshot Crew worked for several months in nearly all of the western states. Forestry provided one DC-7 air tanker and two PC-7 airplanes for several months.

In all, 922 agency employees were sent from Alaska to the Lower 48—a record number. A total of 73 Type II fire crews of 20 people each supported Lower 48 fires.

2000 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
2000	369	756,296.2

Fire Activity by Landowner

Landowner	Number	Acres
State	63	339,514.0
Borough	16	3.9
Private	184	2,260.4
Bureau of Land Mgmt.	13	152,253.0
National Park Service	9	44,802.6
Fish & Wildlife Service	25	178,989.7
Bureau of Indian Affairs	0	278.5
Native Claims Act Lands	35	36,022.4
Military	15	2,170.4
USDA Forest Service	9	1.3
Total	**369**	**756,296.2**

Chart shows land ownership where fire began.

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
1991	0	1996	59
1992	5	1997	0
1993	0	1998	2
1994	83	1999	11
1995	1	2000	73

Emergency Firefighter Wages

Year	State	Federal	Total
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
2000	4,434,380	3,734,483	8,168,863
Total	$37,378,550	$22,489,219	$59,867,769

Causes of Fires on State-Protected Land

Cause	Number	Acres
Lightning	13	32,892.2
Smoking	6	1,121.2
Campfires	41	642.6
Other causes	31	435.4
Vehicles	9	33.9
Land clearing	22	30.5
Arson-related	7	7.1
Trash/dump burns	30	7.0
Field burns	11	6.4
Slash burns	18	6.3
Fireworks	15	4.8
Burning buildings	24	3.5
Powerlines	14	3.1
Children	19	2.8
Total	**260**	**35,196.8**

2000 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	102	53.8	3	2.2	3	1.2	0	0	108	57.2
Copper River	0	0	12	12.2	0	0	0	0	12	12.2
Delta	10	30.2	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	30.2
Fairbanks	43	8.8	15	2,791.9	1	0.1	2	2,279.0	61	5,079.8
Haines	1	0.1	1	2.0	0	0	0	0	2	2.1
Kenai/Kodiak	38	417.1	5	8.4	3	1.6	5	641.3	51	1,068.4
Southwest	1	0.1	4	2.3	1	5.0	3	28,933.4	9	28,940.8
Tok	3	0.7	3	5.2	1	0.2	0	0	7	6.1
Totals	**198**	**510.8**	**43**	**2,824.2**	**9**	**8.1**	**10**	**31,853.7**	**260**	**35,196.8**

USDA Forest Service-Protected Areas

Area	Critical		Full		Modified		Limited		Total	
	No.	Acres	No.	Acres	No.	Acres	No.	Acres	No.	Acres
Chugach N.F.	4	2.5	5	0.9	0	0	1	0.2	10	3.6
Tongass N.F.	1	0.1	7	10.5	0	0	1	0.2	9	10.8
Totals	**5**	**2.6**	**12**	**11.4**	**0**	**0**	**2**	**0.4**	**19**	**14.4**

BLM Alaska Fire Service-Protected Areas

Critical Zone	Full		Modified		Limited		Total			
	No.	Acres	No.	Acres	No.	Acres	No.	Acres	No.	Acres
Galena	0	0	5	13,003.1	7	8,616.7	5	68,257.0	17	89,876.8
Military	1	0.1	4	7.1	0	0	10	3,436.2	15	3,443.4
Tanana	0	0	7	90,827.2	12	165,614.1	21	355,587.0	40	612,028.3
Upper Yukon	2	1.2	5	1,380.6	3	3.1	8	14,351.6	18	15,736.5
Totals	**3**	**1.3**	**21**	**105,218.0**	**22**	**174,233.9**	**44**	**441,631.8**	**90**	**721,085.0**

Statewide Totals by Protection Level

Critical		Full		Modified		Limited		Total	
No.	Acres	No.	Acres	No.	Acres	No.	Acres	No.	Acres
206	514.7	76	108,053.6	31	174,242.0	56	473,485.9	369	756,296.2

Fire Program Implementation

Grants to Rural Communities

The Division of Forestry administers Volunteer Fire Assistance grants, formerly Rural Community Fire Protection grants, from the U.S. Forest Service. Volunteer fire departments serving communities of under 10,000 population may apply for grants of up to $5,000 on a 50/50 cost share basis to organize, train, and equip fire protection units.

In 2000, 31 applications were submitted, requesting a total of $131,432. The division approved 11 grants, totaling $44,958, to fund training and to purchase pumps, radios, protective clothing, fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, fire tools, and other supplies. One grantee had never received a VFA grant in the past. In addition to the grants, Forestry issued fire stores and equipment valued at over $250,000 to volunteer fire departments statewide.

Grant Recipient	Grant
Gakona Volunteer Fire Dept.	$1,500
Old Harbor Volunteer Fire Dept.	2,500
Bear Creek Volunteer Fire Dept.	5,000
Homer Volunteer Fire Dept.	5,000
North Pole Fire Dept.	2,960
Willow Volunteer Fire Dept.	5,000
Talkeetna Volunteer Fire Dept.	5,000
Chena-Goldstream Fire & Rescue	5,000
Ninilchik Volunteer Fire Dept.	4,998
Kenai Fire Dept.	3,000
Seldovia Volunteer Fire Dept.	5,000
Total	**$44,958**

Palmer Facility

The Division of Forestry held an open house in March to introduce the new Forestry facility in Palmer to the community. More than 200 people toured the administration building, hangar, and warehouse. Local vendors met division employees and attended presentations on how to do business with the state.

Coastal Region Forester Jim Eleazer, Gary Withee, and Tom Dean at the Palmer facility open house. (Lynn Wilcock)

Representative Ogan, who sponsored legislation to build the facility, was recognized along with the City of Palmer, the architects, and major contractors. Deputy Director Dean Brown was commended for guiding the project through many hurdles from inception through financing to construction.

During the spring and summer of 2000, the division moved the warehouse and its supplies from Eagle River to Palmer. Mat-Su initial attack, fire trucks, and helitack moved in and the PC-7s and Beavers made full use of the new hangar. The aircraft ramp was paved and the retardant station and fueling facilities completed. Helicopter pads were leveled, grass was planted, and a gravelled parking area was established. South Zone and Anchorage/Mat-Su Area had fully functional dispatch and logistics areas for the fire season and communication systems were installed. The training room hosted fire training and public events.

In 2001, the public parking area will be paved and a separate paved access for the warehouse and initial attack areas will be completed. A team composed of representatives of administration, South Zone, Mat-Su Area, the warehouse, and aviation was formed to manage the facility.

Statewide Fire 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 the 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 2000, there were 17,000 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 Forestry 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. The division 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.

Assistant Attorney General Kevin Saxby, Admin. Services Manager Lex McKenzie, and Deputy Director Dean Brown with a $76,000 check for fire suppression recovered from the homeowner who started the Mansfield Fire. (Scott Christy)

In 2000 the division issued 74 written warnings and 14 citations, collecting a total of $88,849 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.

Mansfield Fire Cost Recovery On June 4, 1999, the Mansfield Fire in Homer burned 75 acres, one trailer, and two outbuildings. Approximately 20 homes were saved, primarily because homeowners had created defensible space around their homes.

The division has become more aggressive in pursuing the costs of wildland fire suppression where a violation of state statutes or regulations has occurred. In this case, the fire started from an escaped slash burn. Kenai/Kodiak Area prevention technician Sharon Kilbourne-Roesch initiated action with the Attorney General's Office and the state sent a bill for fire costs to the homeowner and recovered $76,000 in suppression costs. This is the largest fire suppression cost recovery ever made by the state.

Communications/Technical Systems

After 18 months of development, the Division of Forestry implemented its new Warehouse Reporting and Accounting System (WRAP). Employees from all seven Forestry warehouses were trained in the new system at the Palmer Fire Facility in May.

This customized computer application, based on MicroSoft Access, tracks equipment and supplies valued at $7 million. WRAP has a bar code function, a user friendly interface, and uses the statewide WAN to send daily updates to the server. It provides managers with accurate cost accounting and improves management of inventory. Plans include transitioning WRAP to a web-based application.

Miller's Reach Fire Litigation

Litigation resulting from the 1996 Miller's Reach Fire in the Mat-Su Valley continues. In 1998, seven people filed a lawsuit against the state: Stephen A. Bartek, Philip W. Hill, Ed Paquette and Anna Von Reitz, Franchesca M. Cogdill, Bert Kleinenberg, and Marlon R. Williams. The plaintiffs alleged that the Division of Forestry negligently failed to be prepared for a wildfire before the Miller's Reach Fire began. They also alleged negligence and/or omissions by Forestry during the first 24 hours of the fire and requested class action status.

Judge Beverly Cutler, District Court in Palmer, upheld the concept of 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 firefighting 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. Judge Cutler dismissed the complaint.

A Ninth Circuit decision that interpreted similar concepts under federal law in a wildland fire lawsuit against the U.S. Forest Service subsequently lent additional support to the state's case. The Bartek case is on appeal to the State Supreme Court and briefs have been completed.

After the Bartek case was dismissed, the same attorneys filed a second lawsuit in Anchorage for a different set of 16 plaintiffs called Angnabooguk v. State. Their allegations charged the state with deliberate actions that resulted in loss and damage to the plaintiffs, rather than negligence. Anchorage District Court Judge Reese dismissed the lawsuit, supporting Judge Cutler's finding that the state is immune to lawsuits for discretionary functions like firefighting. This lawsuit is currently on appeal to the Alaska Supreme Court.

The concept of discretionary function immunity is very important. It essentially affirms that a wildland firefighting entity must make discretionary decisions or take actions as a normal part of performing its function. It further indicates that immunity from liability for those decisions is essential to performing such tasks without judicial second guessing. This precept applies to a number of governmental functions, not just wildland fire management.

Aviation Program

In 2000, Forestry's Aviation Program improved its ability to support the detection and air attack of wildland fires. Although the fire season in Alaska was less active than normal, the other western states experienced the most active fire season in the past 50 years. The division was able to help federal agencies combat these wildland fires because its pilots and aircraft meet interagency standards.

Following a thorough study of aviation needs, Forestry decided to reconfigure the aircraft fleet to meet the increasing urban interface problems in Alaska.

The Aviation Program decided that its primary mission is to provide to firefighters on the ground and retardant aircraft, a safe, efficient, and effective Aerial Supervision Module that meets interagency requirements for aircraft type and flight crews. The Aerial Supervision Module requires three essential components—an aircraft that meets specific visibility and performance requirements, a nationally qualified lead plane or air tactical pilot, and an air attack group supervisor.

To accomplish this mission, the division leased two Pilatus PC-7 airplanes and hired an additional pilot. The PC-7 proved to be a strong workhorse and was 100 percent effective in providing the necessary outside visibility and flight characteristics. The division found the aircraft to be the perfect choice for a 20-year aircraft program. Extensive training is required to coordinate and perform the low-level missions performed by air tankers.

In 2000, three pilots completed lead plane training and one was fully qualified. Forestry now employs two nationally qualified lead plane pilots and two fully trained pilots that need to complete their final check rides. The division's lead plane pilot training will be completed early in the 2001 fire season, at which time it will have four nationally qualified lead plane pilots.

The State of Alaska recovered more than $300,000 in reimbursable funds through interagency use of the PC-7 craft. This program has been cited as a model for federal and state fire fighting programs across the U.S.

State Fire Warehouse

Employees of the State Fire Warehouse System facilities in Fairbanks and Palmer began the year on standby in case problems occurred during the transition to the year 2000 that required equipment or assistance. Both facilities were prepared to operate around the clock if needed.

The major activity before the fire season was preparing to open the new warehouse in Palmer. This state-of-the-art warehouse was fully operational in time for the first fire in early April.

Interagency cooperation was strengthened this spring with publication of the Alaska Interagency Catalog of Fire Supplies and Equipment. For the first time, Forestry and the Alaska Fire Service combined their catalogs into one easy-to-use document. One pocket-sized catalog now provides firefighters access to all the fire stores of both agencies.

Another first for the statewide fire program was putting two mobile cache support vans into service. These 40-foot vans provide quick response to extended attack fires in the urban/wildland interface.

The state fire warehouse system supported numerous initial attack fires and one project fire near Clear in 2000. The warehouse also supported search and rescue efforts, avalanche victim recovery, and flood relief.

By the time the Alaska fire season wound down in late July, fire activity in the Lower 48 was heading toward a record-breaking season. The state fire warehouse provided massive support that was critical to the fire fighting effort. By October, Forestry had provided over $4.5 million dollars worth of supplies and equipment. Items such as Nomex fire clothing were in such short supply that people were asked to check their closets and send in extra Nomex shirts. In the end, the division provided twice as much warehouse support as all the other Lower 48 states combined.

Employees worked October through mid-December processing supplies returned from the Lower 48. Forest Technician seasons were extended so they could assist warehouse personnel in unloading van after van of supplies, sorting, restocking and getting ready for the 2001 fire season. Items provided to the Lower 48 and their value included the following:

• 8,000 pairs of jeans	$460,000
• 7, 000 shirts	$310,000
• 128 MK26 & MK3 water pumps	$375,000
• 33 Shindaiwa water pumps	$15,000
• 140 cargo net kits/accessories	$75,000
• 176 Saws	$61,000
• 72 Radios	$60,000

Federal Excess Personal Property

The Federal Excess Personal Property (FEPP) Program provides equipment and supplies for wildland fire fighting in Alaska. The Division of Forestry has acquired $5.5 million in federal excess equipment and supplies 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.

In 2000, the division acquired 102 items worth approximately $326,160. Significant among these items are: one 4x4 crew cab pickup truck, two 4x4 one-ton diesel pickup trucks, a stairway vehicle for loading and unloading aircraft, an electrical fork lift, a micro-mass flow meter used to measure fire retardant mix, three 10-kilowatt diesel generator sets, two 5-kilowatt diesel generator sets, and a pressure cleaner/washer.

Eagle River shop staff created this water tender using the tank from a military fueler and a state surplus road sander truck chassis to which they added a water pump. The tender, operated by Geary Cooper of the Mat-Su Area, performed very well during the Clear Fire. (Scott Christy)

Fire Program Training

The division provides training to maintain a safe and qualified work force that meets national standards. All interagency courses were open to the state's cooperating structure fire departments, emergency firefighters, and Canadian cooperators.

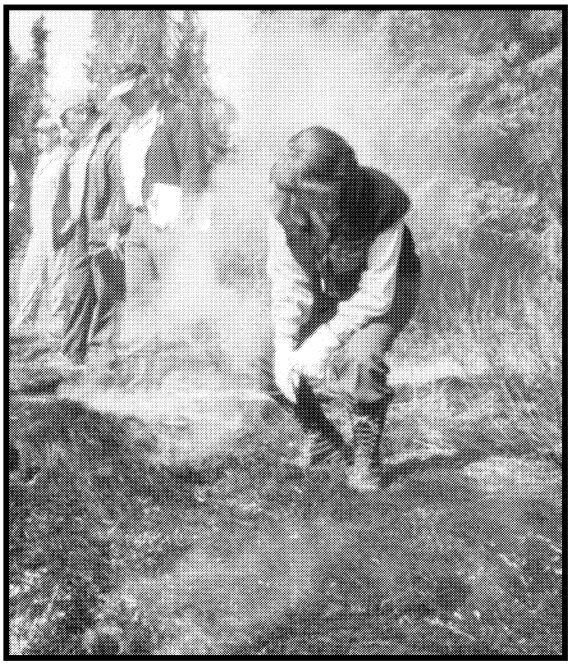
National Level Training

National level training helped the division meet the need for qualified, advanced incident management personnel to serve on Alaska's incident management teams, fill dispatch and finance positions, stay abreast of fire behavior training, aviation safety and maintenance, and fire management leadership. DOF personnel attended the following advanced courses:

- S-493 Fire Area Simulator (FARSITE)
- S-492 Long Term Fire Risk Assessment
- D-510 Supervisory Dispatcher
- S-420 Command and General Staff Exercise
- Fire Management Leadership
- Aviation Safety
- Pratt/Whitney Aircraft Engine maintenance
- S-404 Safety Officer
- S-360 Finance Unit Leader

The division made substantial advances in training personnel in the Supervisory Dispatcher course. Supervisory dispatchers are a critical resource during periods of high fire danger and mobilization of resources to support both instate and national fire activity. The division also trained personnel in the Command and General Staff Exercise Course. This training helps fill incident management team vacancies in the positions of Safety Officer, Logistics Section Chief, Plans Section Chief, and Information Officer. The division sponsored borough structural firefighters for the Safety Officer course.

The division was honored to send instructors to the National Advanced Resource Technology Center. Dave Hendron, AICC, was part of the cadre that taught the D-510 Supervisory Dispatcher course. State Forester Jeff Jahnke and Fire Program Manager Joe Stam were on the cadre that taught S-520, Advanced Incident Management.



Tammy Westover, Kenai/Kodiak Area Forestry, practices determining a fire's origin and cause during the P-15 I course held in May. (Cindy Forrest-Elkins)

Instate Training

Annual refresher training was offered in the following courses: Fireline Safety, Aerial Ignition Devices, First Aid, Blood-borne Pathogens, Hazardous Materials for First Responders, Warehouse Personnel, and Helicopter Manager. The division adopted the Interagency Helicopter Operations Guide for the first time this year. The Helicopter Manager training, which was well received, helped the division meet the training standards of this guide.

Additional entry-level training was provided in the areas of dispatch, logistics, plans, finance, and information. DOF and its interagency cooperators made positive steps in certifying local government, state, and federal agency personnel in these areas and providing additional overhead resources to assist with incident management in Alaska.

Forestry continued to assist the Division of Emergency Services and local governments by providing Basic Incident Command System training to the communities of Delta and Valdez. Forestry offices provided the Introduction to ICS course to local fire departments and other state agencies as requested.

Interagency Fire Training Courses

Dispatching
Facilitative Instructor
Fireline Safety
Helicopter Manager
Incident Command System
Wildfire Origin & Cause Determination
Introduction to Incident Info. Officer
Fire Operations in the Interface
Interagency Helicopter Training
Fire Suppression Tactics
Air Tactical Group Supervisor
Fire Behavior Calculations
Fire Monitoring Skills
Dispatch Recorder
Basic Firefighter
Fire Business Management
Finance Entry level training
Plans Entry level training
Logistics Entry level training
Warehouse Hazardous Materials
Applied Incident Business Management
Intermediate Fire Behavior
Extended Attack Incident Commander
Task Force/Strike Team Leader
Crew Representative
CFFDRS
Aerial Firing

Training in 2000

Type of Course	Courses	Participants	Hours
Incident Command System	3	27	36
Emergency Firefighter & Wildland Interface Firefighter	13	343	232
Fire Management	15	124	629
Dispatch	5	21	144
Suppression Skills	21	250	462
Prevention	1	19	40
First Aid/CPR/BBP*	6	95	48
Fire Line Safety	42	1,225	215
Safety	4	71	7
Hazardous Materials			
Aviation	2	44	24
Warehouse	3	31`	24
First responder	5	75	18
Totals	120	2,325	1,879

*Information missing

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

By partnering with the Anchorage Fire Department to provide training in the Basic Firefighter and Fireline Safety Refresher courses, the division certified 197 Anchorage structural firefighters as basic wildland firefighters. Statewide, an additional 46 fire department personnel were certified in fire overhead positions.

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

The division conducted an aggressive wildland fire training program in 2000 to meet the training needs of structure fire department cooperators. The response from firefighters was outstanding and many fire personnel throughout the state were trained in: Fire Behavior, Fire Suppression Tactics, Fire Operations in the Interface, Fire Business Management, Fire Investigation, Interagency Helicopter Training, Logistics, Dispatch, Plans, the Incident Command System, and Basic Firefighter and Fireline Safety Refresher courses. Capital Improvement Project funds helped support this training. In all, 350 fire department personnel attended 40 courses for a total of 581 classroom hours.

Mat-Su Fire Program staff. Back row l to r: Ed Scully, Scott McLain, Brian Carver, Doug Albrecht, Wes Stevens, Lynn Wilcock, Norm McDonald, Tom Dean, Tom Greiling. Front row l to r: Gary McGeorge, Geroge Coyle, Pat Winn, Dave Dolfi, Tom Smayda (Lynn Wilcock)

Employee Recognition

25 Years of State Service

Steve Strube

Steve began his career with the Division of Forestry in April 1975 as the Anchorage Forest Warden. In 1976, Steve transferred to the Big Lake Area Office and worked in fire suppression and prevention until 1979. Steve worked on the state's first project fire, which was in the Eagle River Valley in1976 and continued working on project fires in Alaska and the Lower 48 until 1997. Steve was red card certified as a Type IIII IC, Fire Detection Specialist, Division Supervisor, Crew Liaison Officer, and Situation Unit Leader.Steve's dedication was reflected by the fact that during the Miller's Reach Fire, his own home burned down while he was busy fighting to save other homes in the area.

In 1979, he accepted the position as Resource Forester for the Big Lake Area. He was promoted to Forester II in 1990 and took over resource responsibilities for both the Mat-Su and Southwest areas in 1999. Steve single-handedly designed and built the forest road into the Houston timber block. He is highly motivated and enjoys the field work required by the Resource Forester's position.

20 Years of State Service

Ruth Earnshaw

Ruth loved growing up in Florida, where she spent a lot of time fishing and beachcombing with her grandfather. After graduation, Ruth moved to New York with her mother and began her first full-time job as a civil service worker. When a co-worker said she thought Ruth would do well in the military, Ruth joined the Army. Her first major assignment was at the Pentagon.

Ruth began her 20-year career in state service working for the State Troopers in 1980. She also worked for the District Attorney's Office and Adult Probation. In 1983 Ruth transferred to Forestry in a clerical position just before the Rosie Creek Fire and was later promoted to Accounting Technician.

Ruth provides accounting expertise and support to the Northern Region and the four area offices. While her work is in demand all year long, she excels in providing support during many tough fire seasons and incidents such as the oil spill, the Koyukuk flood, and the Tok, Carla Lake, and Millers Reach fires. The division benefits from Ruth's dedication, foresight and organizational skills.

When not at work, Ruth loves to quilt, fish, camp, and garden.

Martin Maricle

Martin began his career with the Division of Forestry as the Anchorage Area Foreman (Forest Tech IV) in March 1980. He was promoted to Forest Tech V as the South Central District Logistics Coordinator in 1981. Martin was named Valdez/Copper River Area Forester in 1984 and moved to the Copper Basin from Anchorage. He is currently on the Alaska Interagency Type I Management Team as a Logistics Section Chief.

Martin enjoys the challenges and variety that come with the Area Forester position. Over the years he has been very effective at building close working relationships with local agencies and is a firm believer in interagency cooperation. His forest practices duties bring him in frequent contact with private land managers and logging contractors, and he effectively conveys advice and guidance on this complex topic.

Martin has a unique sense of humor and often provides insightful comments on issues and situations at hand. He is known throughout the division for his PowerPoint presentations and is held in high regard by his staff and peers, who appreciate his 20 years of dedicated service.

Dave Maxell

Near the Gerstle River, on the Delta Barley Fire in May 1979, posters appeared in fire camp touting "Dave Maxell for Fire Boss". Although that original campaign apparently fizzled, what the EFF candidate saw of Forestry during that fire, led him to apply for a Forest Technician job. Dave was on a BLM project fire later that summer when he received a call from Fairbanks Suppression Foreman Pete Simpson with the news that he had been hired as a Forest Tech III in Fairbanks. Dave started his state service that August.

Dave has worked in both Fire and Resources in Fairbanks, primarily for Northern Region. He was promoted to Forest Tech IV in December 1982. In January 1992, Dave was hired as Forester I, his current position, and is involved with silviculture, reforestation, and timber sale administration.

Perhaps Dave's proudest moment came in 1985. On his way home from work one night, Dave spotted a full-sized road grader that had been stolen from the Fairbanks shop a few days earlier. The grader was recovered and returned to the shop, saving the state thousands of dollars.

Dave Maxell and co-worker Gary Reabold are considered authorities on logging bridges in interior Alaska. Bridges of note exhibiting Dave's handiwork include the Goldstream Bridge and the Dunbar Creek Bridge.

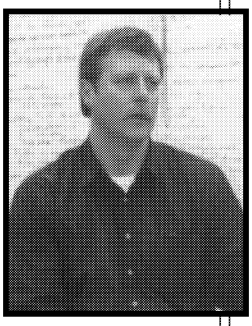
Dennis Ricker

Dennis began his career in wildland fire with the U.S. Forest Service in Colorado. In 1978 he accepted a job as Support Foreman with BLM in Kenai. In the winter he worked as crew leader for the Forest Service Young Adult Conservation Corps. The summer of 1979 was a mixture of fish and fire for Dennis as he worked as a Fishery Biologist for the Department of Fish & Game and on fires for BLM on the Kenai.

Dennis was hired as Prevention Technician for Forestry's Mat-Su Area in 1980 and continued in that position during the 1981 season, while working on water rights case files for the Division of Forest, Land, & Water Management during the winter. In October 1981, Dennis accepted the Fire Planning Specialist position in Anchorage and provided input into Interagency Fire Management Planning, developed the state's Fire Prevention Handbook, screened the FEPP, and coordinated Rural Fire Department Agreements and Assistance.

In 1984 the state created an air operations position in the Southcentral District and hired Dennis as the Coastal Region Aviation Manager. Dennis has been involved in the evolution of the aviation program. He is currently working on an Aviation Safety Certificate from the University of Southern California.

John See



John began his forestry career in the early 1970s working for a commercial wholesale nursery and then as tree seedling program coordinator for the State of Arizona. He served as president of the first Christmas tree growers' association in Arizona.

John joined the Division of Forestry in 1980 as the Assistant Regional Forester for the Southcentral Region. As the scope of the fire program grew with the addition of the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge in 1983 and the McGrath Area in 1985, John's position was changed to focus on the fire program. Many people know him best from his many years as the South Zone Fire Management Officer. After nearly 20 years in the fire program, John accepted the position of Community Forestry Program Coordinator in December 1999. He has since passed the International Society of Arboriculture Certified Arborist exam.

The division continues to benefit from John's fire experience as he continues to serve on the Alaska Type I Incident Management Team as fire behavior analyst and information officer. Recently, he has been working with the Anchorage hillside mitigation planning team to develop solutions for the urban-interface fire problems facing Anchorage residents.

15 Years of State Service

Tom Kurth

Tom Kurth was initiated on wildland fires working for the BLM as an emergency firefighter. He moved to Forestry's Fairbanks Office in 1979 as a Forest Technician and worked on such notable incidents as the Aggie Creek fire, and Delta Agriculture fires. His first Incident Commander assignment was on the Hardluck Fire, where he served as squad boss the first crew the state sent to the Lower 48. Tom has served as engine and helitack foreman and fire control officer and is currently Fire Management Officer for the Fairbanks Area. Tom has been active on various Type I and II Incident Management Teams in Alaska and across the Lower 48. He recently completed a Plans Chief assignment in Idaho on the Alaska Type I team.

Tom is a volunteer firefighter and lead medic with Chena Goldstream Fire Department. He instructs emergency services classes with UAF, serves on the National Ski Patrol, and volunteers with the youth hockey program as coach and administrator.

Karen Gordon

Karen began state employment with the Department of Fish and Game in June 1985 where she entered data and maintained the statewide fur bearer harvest, sale, and export database. She also was the regional point person for personnel issues and tracked expenditures for special project accounts. Her last project with Fish and Game was researching steps other state fish and game departments had taken to institute Watchable Wildlife programs. Karen made recommendations on how Alaska could establish a similar program.

Karen transferred to Forestry in September 1991 when Paul Maki hired her as the regional Administrative Assistant. Since then she has enjoyed learning about ICS and incident business management practices, and editing the annual Alaska Incident Business Management Handbook. A favorite task is teaching portions of the S-260 class each year. Karen also manages the DNR building in Fairbanks.

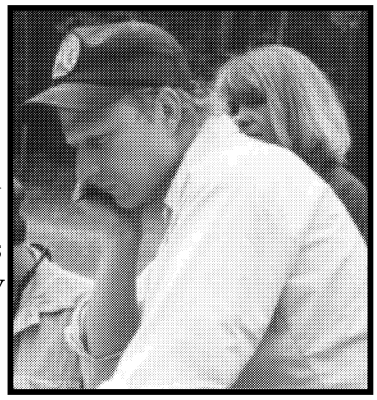
James Carlson

Jim Carlson first learned the construction skills that he brings to Forestry during three years in the Navy. Upon leaving the military, Jim completed a Carpenters Local Apprenticeship program from 1970 to 1973. He held carpentry and maintenance positions for large institutions and construction projects throughout the state through the Carpenters Union.

Jim began working for the Division of Forestry in 1985 as a maintenance worker and has been instrumental in the construction and maintenance of the Eagle River facility. He has completed many fine quality carpentry projects for the division in the past 15 years. The DNR Public Information Center counter in Anchorage is his creation, using different varieties of Alaskan wood. He also works on fire engines during the winter to get them ready for the next fire season.

Jim plays an active role in the community. He has been president of the Eagle River Valley Community Council and has worked on the long range plan for Chugiak and Eagle River.

Gary Mullen



Gary began working for the Division of Forestry in the Kenai/Kodiak Area Office in 1980. He was hired by *Curly* Weincoop as a Forest Tech II. Gary transferred to the Valdez/Copper River Area as a Forest Tech III in 1982 and became a Forest Tech IV as the Forest Warden/Prevention Technician in 1984.

In 1990, Gary was promoted to Forester I and the Valdez/Copper River Area Fire Management Officer position. Gary is an integral part of the Area's Forest Management Program and is always willing to take on new assignments. In addition to being a valuable asset to the division, Gary is active in the Glennallen community.

Citizen Advisory Groups

December 2000

Alaska Board of Forestry

Richard Carle, Jr., Native corporation, Craig
Vacant, non-governmental fish or wildlife biologist
Larry Hartig, recreational organization, Anchorage
Jeff Jahnke, State Forester, Juneau
William Jeffress, mining organization, Fairbanks
Vacant, non-governmental forestry
Richard Smeriglio, environmental organization, Seward
John Sturgeon, forest industry trade association, Anchorage
Paul Swartzbart, commercial fishermen's organization, Cordova

Tanana Valley State Forest Citizens' Advisory Committee

Vacant, Upper Tanana Valley representative
Galea Sam, Native community, Fairbanks
Brad Cox, value-added processing, Delta Junction
Tom DeLong, tourism industry, Fairbanks
Lawrence Smith, Lower Tanana Valley representative, Healy
Jerry Gustafson, forest industry, Fairbanks
Audrey Magoun, fish/wildlife interests, Fairbanks
Susan Bishop, private forest-user, Fairbanks
Chris Stark, environmental interests, Fairbanks
Shelly Basketfield, mining industry, Fairbanks
Bill Studebaker, recreation, Fairbanks
Trish Wurtz, forest science, Fairbanks

Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee

Ole Andersson, landowner, Soldotna
Michelle Brown, The Nature Conservancy, Soldotna
Steve Bush, USDA Forest Service, Anchorage
Steve Glos, landowner, Wasilla
Jeff Graham, Alaska Division of Forestry, Fairbanks
Doug Hanson, Tanana Chiefs Conf., Fairbanks
Max Huhndorf, Gana-A' Yoo, Ltd., Galena
Brit Lively, landowner, Palmer
Jimmy LaVoie, USDA Farm Svc. 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 Rep., Big Lake
Erica Reith, USDI Bureau of Indian Affairs, Juneau
Bob Wheeler, Alaska Cooperative Extension, Fairbanks
Dick Zobel, Natural Resource Conservation & Development Board, Wasilla

Alaska Community Forest Council

John Alden, member-at-large, Fairbanks
Michael Fastabend, member-at-large, Soldotna
Dan Ketchum, arborist, Juneau
Mike Lyne, member-at-large, Palmer
Sarah McClellan, Alaska Cooperative Extension, Fairbanks
Josh Meister, horticulture, Girdwood
Michael Rath, forester, Anchorage
Beverly Richardson, member-at-large, Petersburg
Sue Rodman, municipal planner seat, Anchorage
John Rowe, landscape architect, Fairbanks
Corinne Smith, const./right-of-way, Anchorage
Warren Templin, member-at-large, Palmer
John Trautwein, community forestry & beautification, Anchorage
Michelle Weston York, small community service, Girdwood
Diane Wood, business/industry, King Salmon

Fiscal Year 2000 Actuals[1]

Funding Sources	Forest Mgmt. & Development[2]	Fire Suppression	EFF Non-Emergency	Total
General Funds	$6,893.7	$13,993.4	—	$20,887.1
Federal Funds	931.7	3,815.4	—	4,747.1
Capital Improvement Receipts	168.3	—	122.1	290.4
Interagency Receipts	1,147.4	24.1	—	1,171.5
General Fund/ Program Receipts	8.3	—	—	8.3
Other	14.9	—	—	14.9
Totals	**$9,164.3**	**$17,832.9**	**122.1**	**$27,119.3**
Positions				
Permanent Full-Time	60	8	—	68
Permanent Part-Time	117	33	—	150
Non-Permanent	12	—	—	12
Total Positions	**189**	**41**	—	**230**

Forest Management & Development Component

Renewable Resource Development & Sales	Coastal Region	Northern Region	Statewide	Total
Board of Forestry	—	—	9.5	9.5
Forest Practices	291.9	—	87.0	378.9
Forest Stewardship	238.6	457.5	75.1	771.2
Reforestation	67.0	208.7	—	275.7
State Timber Sales	333.1	427.5	80.6	841.2
Unbudgeted RSAs	—	—	1,115.5	1,115.5
Other	—	—	14.9	14.9
Capital Improvement Receipts	—	—	168.3	168.3
General Fund/Program Receipts	—	1.0	7.3	8.3
Subtotals	**$930.6**	**$1,094.7**	**$1,558.2**	**$3,583.5**
Wildland Fire Protection Services				
Anchorage School District Interns	41.6	—	—	41.6
Preparedness	2,306.0	1,413.7	518.8	4,238.5
Subtotals	**$12,347.6**	**$1,413.7**	**$518.8**	**$4,280.1**
Forest Administration				
Federal Cooperative Forestry Assistance	—	—	931.7	931.7
Director's Office		—	369.0	369.0
Subtotals		—	**$1,300.7**	**$1,300.7**
TOTALS	**$3,278.2**	**$2,508.4**	**$3,377.7**	**$9,164.3**

[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 2001 Budget [1]

Funding Sources	Forest Mgmt. & Development[2]	Fire Suppression	EFF Non-Emergency	Total
General Funds	$6,962.0	$3,182.3	—	$10,144.3
Federal Funds	1,161.6	5,321.3	—	6,482.9
Capital Improvement Receipts	287.7	—	250.0	537.7
Interagency Receipts	50.5	—	—	50.5
General Fund/ Program Receipts	14.8	—	—	14.8
Other	63.5	11.8	—	75.3
Totals	**$8,540.1**	**$8,515.4**	**250.0**	**$17,305.5**
Positions				
Permanent Full-Time	60	8	—	68
Permanent Part-Time	117	33	—	150
Non-Permanent	12	—	—	12
Total Positions	**189**	**41**	—	**230**

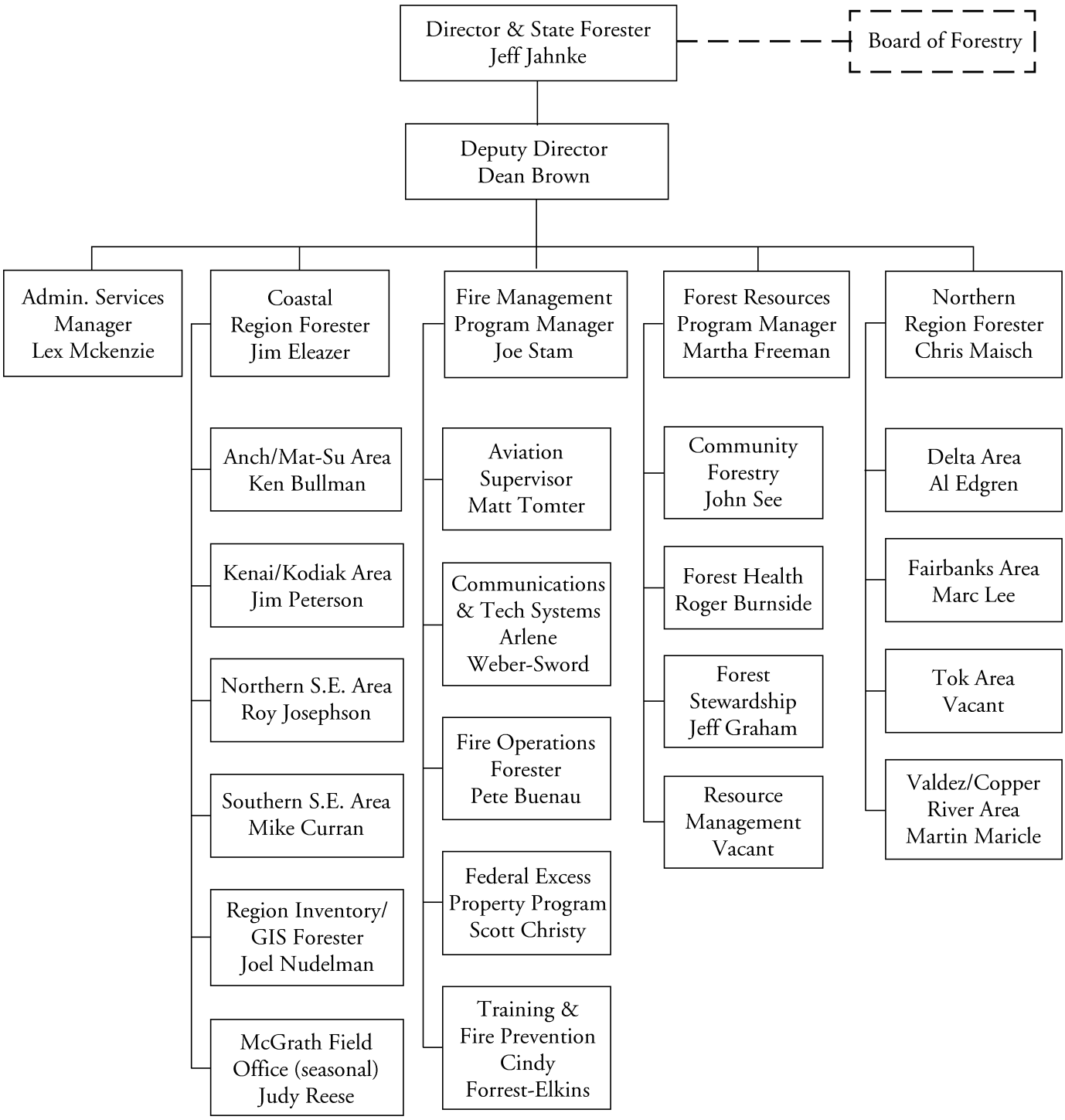
Forest Management & Development Component

Renewable Resource Development & Sales	Coastal Region	Northern Region	Statewide	Totals
Board of Forestry	—	—	9.1	9.1
Forest Practices	359.6	—	51.9	411.5
Forest Stewardship	269.2	483.9	111.4	864.5
Reforestation	65.0	181.5	—	246.5
State Timber Sales	291.9	463.6	120.8	876.3
Capital Improvement Receipts	—	—	287.7	287.7
General Fund/Program Receipts	—	—	14.8	14.8
Subtotals	**$985.7**	**$1,129.0**	**$595.7**	**$2,710.4**
Wildland Fire Protection Services				
Anchorage School District Interns	40.0	—	—	40.0
Preparedness	2,032.8	1,749.7	461.9	4,244.4
Subtotals	**$2,072.8**	$1,749.7	$461.9	**$4,284.4**
Forest Administration				
Federal Cooperative Forestry Assistance	—	—	1,161.6	1,161.6
Director's Office	—	—	383.7	383.7
Subtotals	—	—	**$1,545.3**	**$1,545.3**
TOTALS	$3,058.5	**$2,878.7**	**$2,602.9**	**$8,540.1**

[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)

Division of Forestry Organization Chart



Division of Forestry Directory

March 2001

State Forester

State Forester's Office
550 W. Seventh Ave., Suite 1450
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3566
(907) 269-8463 fax: 269-8931

State Forester
Jeff Jahnke, 269-8474

Deputy State Forester
Dean Brown, 269-8476

Admin. Services Manager
Lex McKenzie, 269-8477

Forest Resources Program Mgr.
Martha Freeman, 269-8473

Community Forestry Program
John See, 269-8466

Conservation Education
Vacant, 269-8481

Forest Health & Protection (Insects and Disease)
Roger Burnside, 269-8460

Forest Stewardship Program
(Landowner Assistance)
3700 Airport Way
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709-4699
Jeff Graham, (907) 451-2668

Fire Program Manager
Joe Stam, 269-8467

State Fire Operations
P.O. Box 35005
Ft. Wainwright, AK 99703
(907) 356-5850 fax: 356-5220
Pete Buenau, Operations Forester

Logistics: 356-5645
Intelligence: 356-5643
Air Attack: 356-1375

State Fire Warehouse
3700 Airport Way
Fairbanks, AK 99709-4699
(907) 451-2640 fax: 451-2692
Bill Simonsma

Aviation Program
101 Airport Rd.
Palmer, Ak 99645
(907) 761-6271
Matt Tomter, State Aviation Mgr.

Coastal Region

Coastal Region Office
400 Willoughby Ave., 3rd Floor
Juneau, Alaska 99801
(907) 465-2491 fax: 586-3113
Jim Eleazer, Region Forester

Inventory and GIS Forester
Joel Nudelman
(907) 465-4506 fax: 586-3113

Mat-Su/Southwest Area Office
101 Airport Road
Palmer, Alaska 99645
(907) 761-6300 fax: 761-6319
Ken Bullman, Area Forester

Fire line: 761-6311
Burn Permit: 761-6312

Coastal Fire Management Office
(907) 761-6238 fax: 761-6227
Bill Beebe, Fire Mgmt. Officer

Reception: 761-6200
Logistics: 761-6218
Aviation Mgmt.: 761-6229
Training, Anchorage: 269-8441

Kenai-Kodiak Area Office
42499 Sterling Highway
Soldotna, Alaska 99669
(Mi. 92.5 Sterling Hwy.)
(907) 262-4124 fax: 262-6390
Jim Peterson, Area Forester

Fire line: 260-3473
Burn Permit: 260-4269

McGrath Field Office (Seasonal)
Box 130
McGrath, Alaska 99627
(907) 524-3011 fax: 524-3932
Judy Reeves, Fire Mgmt. Officer

Northern Southeast Area Office
P.O. Box 263 (Gateway Building)
Haines, Alaska 99827
(907) 766-2120 fax: 766-3225
Roy Josephson, Area Forester

Southern Southeast Area Office
2030 Sea Level Dr., #217
Ketchikan, Alaska 99801
(907) 225-3070 fax: 247-3070
Mike Curran, Area Forester

Northern Region

Northern Region Office
3700 Airport Way
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709-4699
(907) 451-2660 fax: 451-2690
Chris Maisch, Region Forester

Fairbanks Area Office
(907) 451-2600 fax: 451-2633
Marc Lee, Area Forester

Fire line: 451-2626

Northern Fire Management Office
(907) 451-2675 fax: 451-2690
Jim Lewandoski, Fire Mgmt. Officer

Reception: 451-2660
Logistics: 451-2660
Fire Management: 451-2675
Aviation Mgmt.: 451-2676

Delta Area Office
P.O. Box 1149
Delta Junction, Alaska 99737
(Mi. 267.5 Richardson Hwy.)
(907) 895-4225 fax: 895-4934
Al Edgren, Area Forester

Tok Area Office
Box 10 (Mile 123 Glenn Hwy.)
Tok, Alaska 99780
(907) 883-5134 fax: 883-5135
Ray Kramer, Acting Area Forester

Fire line: 883-5657

Valdez/Copper River Area Office
P.O. Box 185
Glennallen, Alaska 99588
(Mi. 110 Richardson Hwy.)
(907) 822-5534 fax: 822-5539
Martin Maricle, Area Forester

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 2000. The Division of Forestry printed 550 copies of the report in Anchorage, Alaska at a cost of $4.57 per copy.

The 2000 Annual Report was produced by Patricia Joyner, Division of Forestry
Cover design by Patty Bliss, Great Bear Graphic Design
Cover photo: © 2001 Marion Owen/AlaskaStock.com