Alaska Department of Natural Resources

Division of Forestry

2001
Annual Report

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Alaska Division of Forestry

The Alaska Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry:

- Protects water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, and other forest values through appropriate forest practices and administration of the Forest Resources and Practices Act;
- Manages a wildland fire program on public, private, and municipal lands;
- Encourages development of the timber industry and forest products markets;
- 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 Forest 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 2001 the division employed 68 people full-time, 150 seasonally, approximately 868 emergency firefighters, and 12 student interns.

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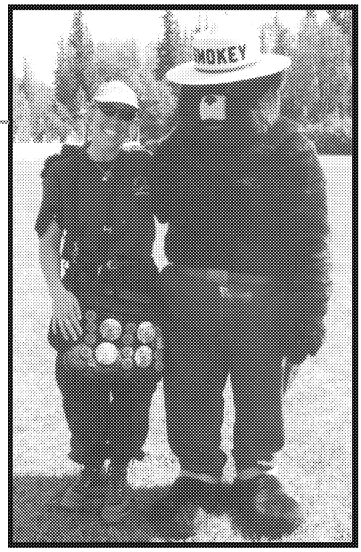


Judy Reese, McGrath Fire Management Officer and Smokey Bear. (Naomi Norback)

Retired Northern Region Forester Les Fortune celebrates Arbor Day in Fairbanks. (Jeff Graham)

State Forester's Comments

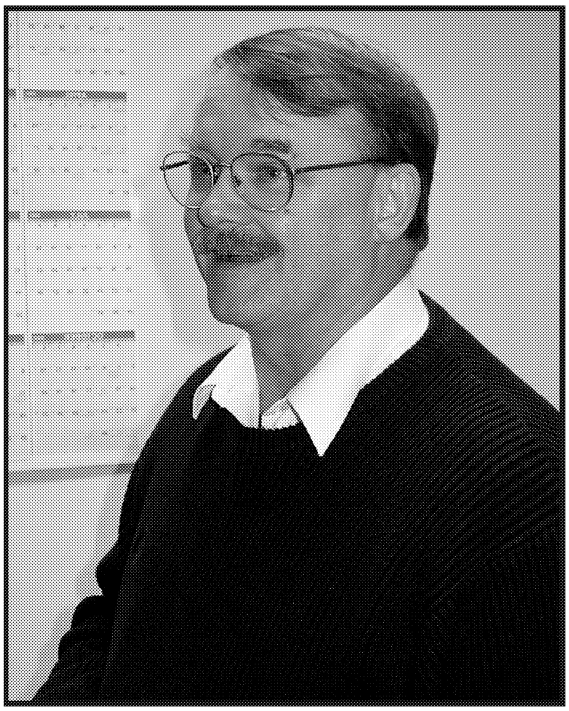
The year 2001 was one the nation will long remember. Alaskans responded to September 11, 2001 with heartfelt generosity, affirming our faith in each other. The Division of Forestry answered the call directly when the Alaska Interagency Type I Team was sent to New York City. Those who were honored to go on that assignment are forever changed. The individual experiences following that day have affected our perspective on life, values, relationships, and priorities.

Our nation's response to this catastrophe demonstrates that in spite of the transient nature of human life, the foundation of our great nation survives and becomes greater.

A parallel exists in the trust we are given to manage forest resources. Recent years have seen unprecedented challenges from the spruce bark beetle epidemic, emerging wildland/urban interface fire risks, and lack of timber markets. The social contract we share with all Alaskans is to sustain the forest resources for future generations, achieve and maintain a healthy and productive forest resource, and encourage the multiple use of that resource. We take that charge very seriously and are committed to improving the long term health and sustainability of the forests that are a basic value in the Alaskan culture.

The past year has demonstrated the benefits of emphasizing value-added timber sales. State value-added sales have provided a dependable base for the small operator from Southeast to the Interior. Maintaining a small, but robust wood products industry in rural Alaska provides jobs in areas that frequently have very few other opportunities.

The foundation of good forest management involves many diverse factors. Wildland fire management supports regeneration, forest stand diversity in both age and type, diverse wildlife habitat, and proactive risk management. Current programs between the Division of Forestry, municipalities, and boroughs are using federal funding to address wildland/urban interface fire risks. Public participation in providing for defensible space and promoting Firewise programs is resulting in an improved understanding of the risks we Alaskans face from wildland fire and what we can personally do to mitigate those risks.



State Forester Jeff Jahnke. (Karen Gordon)

With cooperation from our federal partners, the Division of Forestry is providing valuable technical assistance to private forest landowners, educating teachers and youth about healthy, productive forests, encouraging a better recognition of the importance of the forests *within* our communities and improving our understanding of and response to insect and disease conditions throughout the state. Without these federal partnerships, many of these valuable efforts would not occur.

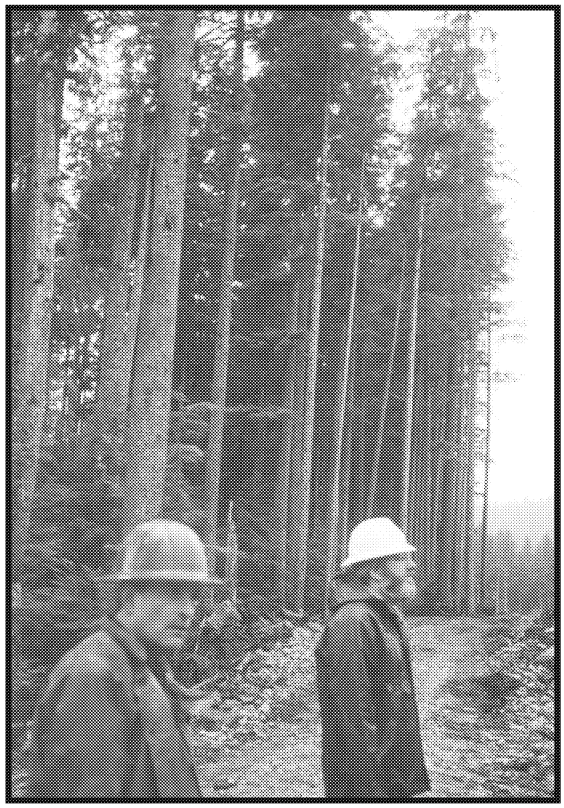
The support and personal involvement of many of you in resolving forestry issues is the basis on which to build a sound future for Alaska's forests. I have found in Alaskans a commitment to work together to resolve state forestry issues that makes the job of State Forester both productive and enjoyable.

Jeff J. Jahnke
State Forester

2001 at a Glance

Resource Management

- The Division of Forestry offered 98 commercial timber sales in Fiscal Year 2001, of which 60 sold for a volume of 8,875 MBF.
- State timber sales provided $370,200 to the state treasury in Fiscal Year 2001.
- The division issued 399 fuelwood permits and 45 personal-use house log permits, and made 13 personal-use timber sales in Fiscal Year 2001.
- DOF planted 191,000 seedlings on 502 acres of state land. It scarified an additional 258 acres in preparation for planting, and thinned 161 acres.
- Forestry registered 40 log brands, of which 17 were new and 23 were renewals.
- The division revised the Tanana Valley State Forest Management Plan and began revision of the Haines State Forest Management Plan.



Southern Southeast Area Forester Mike Curran (left) shows off the 200-foot Sitka spruce that grow on Prince of Wales Island to Northern Region Forester Chris Maisch. (Dean Brown)

Division of Forestry staff and the high school intern crew planted more than 100 trees, shrubs, and perennials around the new facility in Palmer. The Division of Agriculture Plant Materials Center donated native plants, and plnted wetland plants in stormwater retention areas. (John See)

- The Community Forestry Program awarded 10 Arbor Day grants in eight communities for a total of $15,658. It awarded community forestry program development grants to Juneau and Wasilla.
- Wasilla became the first non-military base to meet the standards for a Tree City USA.
- Forty private forest landowners prepared stewardship plans covering 2,590 acres, with assistance from the Forest Stewardship Program.
- The division awarded forest stewardship planning grants, totalling $131,282, to Alaska Native corporations.
- The Forest Stewardship Program planted 90,465 seedlings on 319 acres of private land through a partnership with the Kenai Peninsula Borough.
- The Conservation Education Coordinator trained 84 people in Project Learning Tree. PLT is a curriculum that uses the forest to teach about the wise use and management of natural resources.

Monitoring of Best Management Practices at Halibut Creek, near Hoonah. (Joel Nudelman)

Fire Management

- The division successfully controlled a wildland/urban interface fire within the town of Tok without loss of life.
- In cooperation with federal agencies, the division provided fire protection for 150 million acres of private, municipal, and state land.
- The Alaska Type I Team spent one month in New York City assisting with recovery and clean-up at the World Trade Center site.
- During a year of below normal fire activity, 351 wildfires burned 218,114 acres statewide.
- Emergency firefighters collected $5 million in state and federal wages.
- Forestry administered the federal Volunteer Fire Assistance Grants totaling $162,140. The funds allowed volunteer fire departments in 39 communities to train firefighters and purchase tools, equipment, and supplies. This was a big increase over the $44,958 granted in 2000.
- Forestry acquired 103 items for fire fighting, valued at $737,666 through the Federal Excess Personal Property Program. This is nearly double the value of equipment acquired in 2000.
- The State Fire Warehouse provided $450,000 worth of fire fighting supplies and equipment to 39 local governments in Alaska.

Forest Resources & Practices

- The division processed 82 forest practices notifications of timber harvest and 39 renewals of harvest on 31,225 acres.
- Federal funds enabled staff to conduct 152 forest practices field inspections.
- 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.

Small timber sale at Naukati, Prince of Wales Island. (Paul Slenkamp)

Alaska Team I Incident Commander Joe Stam (center) with Van Bateman, Southwest Team IC, (right) and Mike Lohrey, Pacific Northwest Team IC, in New York City. (Michael Raines)

Forest Resources & Practices

The Division of Forestry administers the Forest Resource and Practices Act (FRPA) on private, municipal, and trust lands. The division reviews notifications of timber harvests, conducts forest inspections, encourages compliance, and when necessary, takes enforcement action. 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.

2001 Highlights

The FRPA continues to effectively protect water quality and fish habitat, while supporting successful timber and fishing industries. Thanks to federal Section 319 Clean Water Act funding, the division was able to maintain sufficient field presence this year to ensure that the FRPA was implemented properly.

Highlights of the program in 2001 include:

- The highest ratio of field inspections to operations since the Act was revised in 1990, thanks to the Section 319 funding.
- Introduction of House Bill 131 to implement the amendments to Region III riparian management standards endorsed by the Board of Forestry.
- Completion of the Tanana River Dynamics research project to assess erosion rates and large woody debris inputs in a glacial river – key issues for forest practices in interior Alaska.
- Resolution of Region I stream classification issues above questioned blockages.

Activity Summary

Trends for forest practices activity were mixed in 2001. The number of new Detailed Plans of Operation (DPOs) decreased by 40 percent, the acreage in new notifications decreased by 34 percent, and the number of variation trees requested was down 25 percent (see table on page 6). These changes reflect a major decrease in new harvest areas in the Southern Southeast. International markets for Alaskan timber continued to be weak, limiting export operations from private land. However, the acreage in new notifications increased in the Northern Southeast and the Kenai-Kodiak areas, as did the number of new road miles notified. The acreage of reforestation exemptions reviewed by the Kenai-Kodiak Area increased four-fold and the acreage reviewed for reforestation compliance was up more than five-fold. There continues to be little private harvesting in interior Alaska and only one new notifications for non-state land was received in the Northern Region.

Notifications and inspections The Division of Forestry received and reviewed 82 new DPOs and 39 renewals for private, municipal, and trust lands in 2001. The division conducted 152 field inspections this year. The ratio of inspections to the acreage and number of new notifications was the highest since the current Act was adopted in 1990.

Enforcement Enforcement actions declined this year. However, the division issued two new charging documents (notices of violation) for violations to riparian buffers and bridge installation standards. For the first time, the division is working with the Department of Public Safety on criminal prosecution of one major violation. The case involves a cataloged anadromous stream that was not buffered or protected by the operator. All the timber within 66 feet of both sides of the stream was harvested. All three violations were on Prince of Wales Island, and resolution is pending. No stop-work orders or directives were issued by the division this year.

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

- assess how well the Best Management Practices (BMPs) are being applied,
- ensure that the measures for controlling non-point source pollution are being implemented,
- identify training needs, and
- determine whether the BMPs are workable on the ground.

Implementation monitoring The division established a routine BMP implementation monitoring program in Region I conducted by the area offices. Southeast Area Foresters and personnel from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) and the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) participated in monitoring training early in the field season. Monitoring this year emphasized review of active and inactive roads within current harvest operations.

In Region II, the division reviewed results from the 2000 pilot implementation monitoring study in consultation with DEC. Revised monitoring protocols were tested, improved, and used in 2001 inspections. Monitoring data from Regions I and II will be analyzed by spring 2002 and the results reported to the Board of Forestry.

Effectiveness monitoring The division and the University of Alaska Anchorage Environment and Natural Resources Institute conducted a pilot study to determine if the institute's bioassessment techniques offer a practical way to assess the effectiveness of BMPs in protecting aquatic life from impacts attributed to sedimentation. Macroinvertebrate and sediment samples were collected in late summer and fall from six streams on the Kenai Peninsula. A final report is due from the institute in April 2002.

The division is currently reviewing the FRPA monitoring program and believes that implementation monitoring of active operations can be made more efficient and effective across the state. DOF also recognizes a need to conduct implementation monitoring on closed operations through a separate effort, to identify feasible methods for monitoring the Act's effectiveness, and to verify reforestation on private lands in Regions II and III.

Forest practices inspection at Halibut Creek near Hoonah. (Joel Nudelman)

Reforestation exemptions Reforestation exemptions continue to be used widely on private forest land on the Kenai Peninsula as salvage harvesting of bark beetle killed timber continues. The division received 15 new requests for exemptions from FRPA reforestation requirements this year. DOF approved exemptions on 9,363 acres and denied them on 7,154 acres, for a total of 16,517 acres reviewed for exemptions. This is up from 3,843 acres reviewed for exemptions in 2000. No new exemption requests were received for the Copper River Area in 2001. On state land, DNR reforests all salvage areas.

Exemptions are authorized by the FR&P Act, but in recent years have been used much more extensively than anticipated when the Act was adopted. Since 1995, DOF has reviewed exemption requests on 81,439 acres in the Kenai-Kodiak Area. Approximately 84 percent of the requests were from Native corporations. A request in 2001 from the Mental Health Trust was the first from a trust land manager. Overall, DOF approved exemption requests for 76 percent of the acreage in the applications.

The division supports public and private efforts to reforest infested harvest areas even when they are exempt from reforestation standards. The division's Forest Stewardship Program is working with the Kenai Peninsula Borough to help private landowners reforest in beetle-impacted areas. In 2001, the Forest Stewardship Program administered $60,000 in reforestation cost-share funds provided by the borough's spruce bark beetle office. This allowed 319 acres to be scarified and 90,465 seedlings to be planted. Private landowners contributed an estimated $24,745. The work was done by a local planting contractor. Additional funding will likely be available in Fiscal Year 2002.

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		
	1999	2000	2001	1999	2000	2001	1999	2000	2001	1999	2000	2001	1999	2000	2001
Coastal Region															
So. Southeast	79	104	36	23	28	10	11,706	24,321	5,599	32	89	44	6	14	4
No. Southeast	0	0	19	0	0	7	0	0	9,619	0	0	25	0	0	2
Mat-Su/SW	3	4	0	16	11	11	7,246	13,312	0	19	46	22	0	0	0
Kenai-Kodiak	32	28	27	10	13	11	17,586	9,502	16,008	57	52	61	0	0	0
Coastal Total	**114**	**136**	**82**	**49**	**52**	**39**	**36,538**	**47,135**	**31,225**	**108**	**187**	**152**	**6**	**14**	**6**
Northern Region															
Copper River	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	275	0	0	0	0	0	0
Delta	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fairbanks	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	90	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tok	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northern Total	**0**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**90**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
State Total	**114**	**137**	**83**	**49**	**52**	**39**	**36,538**	**47,225**	**31,500**	**108**	**187**	**152**	**6**	**14**	**6**

Region	Variation Trees Reviewed			Acreage Reviewed for Reforestation Exemptions			Acres Reviewed for Reforestion Compliance			Notification of FRPA Violation			Road Miles in New Notification		
	1999	2000	2001	1999	2000	2001	1999	2000	2001	1999	2000	2001	1999	2000	2001
Coastal Region															
So. Southeast	1,522	330	103	0	0	0	0	1,722	106	0	0	2	101	130	39
No. Southeast	0	0	144	0	0	0	0	0	655	0	0	0	0	0	104
Mat-Su/SW	0	0	0	0	0	16,517	160		8,778	0	0	0	26	0	0
Kenai-Kodiak	0	0	0	13,874	3,843	0	0	0	480	0	1	0	146	44	65
Coastal Total	**1,522**	**330**	**247**	**13,874**	**3,843**	**16,517**	**160**	**1,722**	**10,019**	**0**	**1**	**2**	**273**	**174**	**208**
Northern Region															
Copper River	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	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	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tok	0	0	0	0	0	0	376	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northern Total	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**376**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
State Total	**1,522**	**330**	**247**	**13,874**	**3,843**	**16,517**	**536**	**1,722**	**10,019**	**0**	**1**	**2**	**273**	**174**	**208**

Region I Coastal Alaska

Region II Southcentral - boreal forest south of the Alaska Range

Region III Interior Alaska

Training The division held staff training on forest practices law enforcement in March. The week-long training session, held in Palmer, concentrated on investigation procedures.

The Southern Southeast Area Forester presented a training session at the Region 10 Logging Safety Summit in Ketchikan in March. The training focused on harvest activity and safety considerations in riparian areas, as related to the Forest Practices Act and Regulations.

Individual and on-site training is an ongoing process in all the area offices. Forest Practice Foresters provide training to the operators to ensure they understand the Act and regulations.

FRPA budget State funding for forest practices was level in Fiscal Year 2001, including federal Section 319 Clean Water Act funding. The Section 319 funding is essential to adequately fund the program. The division had 7.9 full-time equivalent positions funded for forest practices, spread over 12 positions. 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, like ADF&G and DEC, depends on federal funding for forest practices and there is no guarantee that federal funds will continue to be available.

The division expects the level of harvest volume in the Coastal Region to be similar to that in 2001, but the acreage notified will probably increase due to helicopter logging operations in the Southern Southeast Area. DOF also expects a decrease in new road construction. The number of Detailed Plans of Operation are likely to be slightly lower than 2001. Forest practices harvest activity in 2002 is likely to be similar to 2001 for the Northern Region.

Stream Classification in Coastal Region

Over the last 18 months, DNR, ADF&G, and the forest industry held lengthy discussions on the issue of how to resolve questioned blockages. Questioned blockages are sites where the landowner or operator believes that a blockage to fish passage exists although the site does not meet the regulation standards for a presumed blockage.

The great majority of stream classification issues are resolved on the ground by field personnel working closely together. The exception was a tributary to Halibut Creek near Hoonah. This case consumed a great deal of time and effort by the landowner and the agencies due to the particular circumstances of the case. After six field inspections and five sets of samples over 18 months, a coho was found above the questioned blockage, providing conclusive evidence that the stream is used by anadromous fish. The six inspections showed wide variability in fish use of this tributary, depending on the season and water conditions.

After lengthy discussions, the parties agreed to continue to resolve issues on the ground, site by site. The agreement includes a moratorium on efforts to resolve this issue through regulatory or statutory changes for two field seasons. During the moratorium, the parties will address issues of questioned blockages using the existing statute and regulations. Issues that cannot be resolved in the field will be reviewed through the existing appeal and elevation processes. After two field seasons, agencies and forest industry representatives will determine whether cases can continue to be resolved in the field under existing procedures, or whether changes are needed.

The one addition to existing procedures is that DNR will act as a gatekeeper when questioned blockages arise. DNR will determine whether there is a reasonable basis to assert that a physical blockage to fish exists.

Riparian Standards for Interior Alaska

The review of FRPA riparian management standards for Region III culminated in the introduction of House Bill 131 in the 2001 legislative session. The bill incorporates the work of the Region III Science and Technical Committee and the Implementation Group. The Implementation Group had representatives from the timber and fishing industries, private forest owners, state resource agencies, and environmental groups. If adopted, the bill will help ensure that FRPA standards continue to protect fish habitat and water quality, support healthy timber and fishing industries, and incorporate the best available science. The Board of Forestry unanimously endorsed the bill.

The division compiled documentation of the process used to review the standards and develop the legislation. The final report, *Alaska Forest and Resources Practices Act - Documentation of Region III Review 1999-2001* was distributed in spring 2001.

Alaska Clean Water Actions

The division joined DEC, ADF&G, and the Division of Governmental Coordination in organizing the Alaska Clean Water Actions (ACWA). ACWA is designed to better coordinate the many state programs that address water quality, water quantity, and fish habitat protection. It emphasizes prevention of water resource problems through good stewardship, including the forest practices program.

In 2001, ACWA began drafting the first stewardship program report card summarizing the various state water programs and assessing their effectiveness. When complete, the report card will identify gaps in existing programs that should be addressed to ensure continued health of Alaskan waters. ACWA also produced draft priorities for additional data collection and restoration work. Funding, including federal Section 319 funding, will be allocated based on the plan's stewardship emphasis and priorities for work on specific water bodies.

Tanana River Dynamics

The division completed work on the Tanana River dynamics study in 2001. The project analyzed erosion rates and inputs of large woody debris along the Tanana River from Tok to the confluence with the Yukon. Prior to this study, little information was available on these key fish habitat characteristics for large glacial rivers.

Results were presented at the Third North American Forest Ecology Workshop in Duluth, Minnesota. At the conference poster session, the display took first place in the professional category. Additionally, a talk was given at the 28th annual meeting of the Alaska Anthropological Association in Fairbanks. The division plans to publish a peer-reviewed manuscript.

Alaska Board of Forestry

The nine-member Board of Forestry advises the state on forest practices and provides a forum for discussion and resolution of forest management issues on state land. The board also reviews all proposed changes to the Alaska Forest Resources & Practices Act and its regulations. Board members are appointed by the governor for three-year terms, and represent a variety of forest-related interests. Board members are listed on page 43.

The board held three hearings in 2001. Main topics included:

- HB 131 and riparian management standards in Region III (interior Alaska),
- log transfer facility permitting and ecological assessment of log transfer facility impacts,
- stream classification and fish sampling issues in Region I (Coastal Alaska),
- the Alaska Clean Water Actions effort,
- coordination with the Board of Fisheries on issues of common interest,
- reforestation standards and compliance in the boreal forest,
- updates to the Tanana Valley and Haines state forest management plans,
- funding for forest practices, including Section 319 funding, and
- interagency coordination of forest practices work plans.

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.

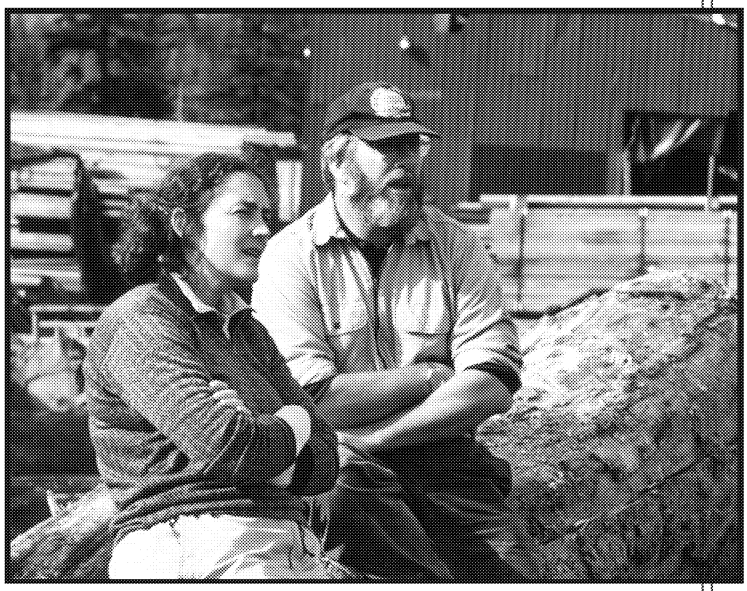
The division, in cooperation with federal agencies, surveys forested lands to assess the impacts of insects and disease and recommends preventative measures and treatments. Division staff provide technical assistance and administer federal grants to private landowners and local governments to help them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

Forest Management & Timber Sales

Forest Products Market Overview

Southeast Timber manufacturers in Southeast Alaska continue to explore and expand market opportunities. Some mills have installed resaws, and several kiln facilities are under construction, with one producing a marketable product. Export and domestic log and lumber prices dropped in 2001, and may have bottomed out for the foreseeable future. A reduced global demand for spruce and hemlock, especially the lower quality products, has hindered development and stabilization of the industry. Demand for western redcedar and Alaska yellow-cedar has remained high, both in the export and domestic markets.

The demand for state timber sales has remained remarkably high, especially in Southern Southeast. This demand reflects the inconsistent, diminishing, and questionable federal supply. Small and medium sized mills have been reserved in their harvest plans for the latter half of 2001 with a marked increase in requests to export the smaller, low quality hemlock. Interest in exporting the smaller timber appears to be a result of inconsistent and economically uncertain domestic markets. Timber sales with significant quantities of average or better wood quality still elicit a strong response from purchasers of value- and high-value-added products.



Forest Resources Program Manager Martha Freeman and Northern Region Forester Chris Maisch visit the Rick Cabe Mill in Thorne Bay. The mill is processing yellow-cedar. (Dean Brown)

Interior Sawmills in Interior Alaska continue to develop higher quality and value-added products, and are finding regional and statewide markets. These include kiln-dried and graded lumber, prefabricated buildings, building kits, and shaped millwork. Several small businesses are selling items such as bowls, boxes, mugs, and plaques. Overall, levels of production seem to be stable, but the emphasis on value-added marketing has reduced demand for small and poor quality trees.

Some sawmills are now importing their log supply from Canada rather than harvesting state timber sales. It is the base timber industry that is purchasing the larger timber sales that involve road building. Specialty manufacturers depend on these larger sales for access and supply of raw material. No logs are being exported. The resulting effect on timber sales are lower stumpage revenues and a limited interest in sales with low grade logs.

Timber Program

Timber Volume Offered and Sold in Commercial Sales

Timber Volume Offered (MBF)*

Fiscal Year	Coastal Region Southeast	Coastal Region Southcentral	Northern Region	State Total	Number of Sales
1998	15,128	18,412	22,407	55,947	84
1999	5,302	8,127	15,571	29,000	55
2000	11,599	9,361	14,966	35,926	88
2001	5,954	8,568	17,999	32,521	98

Timber Volume Sold (MBF)

Fiscal Year	Coastal Region Southeast	Coastal Region Southcentral	Northern Region	State Total	Number of Sales
1998	14,623	17,754	13,117	45,494	60
1999	4,797	2,803	7,003	14,603	32
2000	8,365	5,774	6,640	20,779	60
2001	954	1,857	6,064	8,875	60

*Timber offered includes new offerings, reoffers, and over-the-counter sales.

Timber Program Revenue

Fiscal Year	Revenues
1998	$773,200
1999	$339,900
2000	$334,300
2001	$370,200

Note: Timber program revenue is primarily from timber sales; approximately two percent of the revenue comes from other sources, including log brands, seedlings, retained damages, and document fees.

Personal Use Permits - Fiscal Year 2001

Location	Fuelwood	House/Saw Log
Coastal Region		
Southeast	0	0
Southcentral	23	10
Coastal Total	**23**	**10**
Northern Region	376	35
State Totals	**399**	**45**

Note: Volumes are approximate. Products sold in cubic feet or lineal feet are converted to board feet to permit comparison.

In addition to these products, personal use permits were issued for 294 seedlings and 375 Christmas trees. Fifteen beach log salvage licenses were issued for a total of 150 MBF.

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
Cord = 85 cubic feet
CCF = hundred cubic feet

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

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

Average Stumpage Price by Species - Calendar Year 2001

Species	MBF	Species	MBF
Redcedar	$160.88	Sitka Spruce	$55.42
Hardwoods	$23.66	White Spruce	$30.97
Hemlock	$16.59	Yellow-cedar	$38.14

Note: Prices include all commercial sales regardless of grade, for example, saw timber, utility, timber, for which prices were set by species. Hardwood sales include cottonwood, birch, and willow.

State Fiscal Year 2001: July 2000 - June 2001

Haines State Forest

The Haines State Forest offered two bid sales, one for 3.1 MMBF and the other for 357 MBF of timber. A local operator purchased the smaller offering, but there were no bids on the larger sale due to poor market conditions in the region. The division also sold 21 negotiated sales to small local operators, a record for the forest. The negotiated sales totaled 508 MBF and generated $13,435 for the state. This volume primarily supplied the seven local mill owners with material for processing as house logs to sell to Yukon markets. Three of the small mills operate year-round. The local operators are experimenting with the marketing potential for products such as house logs, flooring, and moldings, with a focus on primary product manufacturing.

Pre-commercial thinning continued on the Forest with 65 acres completed in 2001 and contracts for another 78 acres begun. This brought the total acres thinned (or under contract) since the program began in 1993 to 1,555. Thinning creates fewer, but larger, trees in a shorter period and has the added benefit of maintaining browse species for moose. Several specific sites of second growth are not being thinned for the purpose of comparison and to create diversity. This strategy is based on the theory that diversity will bring the greatest returns in both the short and long terms. The stands harvested in the late 1960s and early 1970s, where most of the thinning occurs, are now 20 to 70 feet tall and 5 to 14 inches in diameter.

The division continued its pruning prescriptions on an additional 30 acres in 2001. A local contractor prunes branches from 12 and 16 feet up, depending on the diameter of the tree. Selecting the trees based on diameter targets the dominant and most vigorous trees in the stand and promotes development of clear wood, which will potentially improve the value of the product when harvested.

As the need for thinning in this second growth forest decreases, the need for pruning increases, which provides an opportunity for local forest contractors to continue to work in the Forest throughout the year.

The division is transitioning its timber program reporting from a calendar year to a fiscal year basis—July through June. For continuity in this annual report only, the narratives for Haines State Forest and Southern Southeast are for calendar year 2001.

Southern Southeast Area Forester Mike Curran on Prince of Wales Island. (Dean Brown)

Southern Southeast (SSE)

The Division of Forestry continued to focus on developing a value-added timber sale program. The Southern Southeast Area sold 2,965 MBF in 2001. It prepared for sale another 7,527 MBF, which has been offered but not yet put under contract due to seasonal conditions.

The division developed a proposal process for a high-value-added timber sale and used it to select a purchaser on a 2.5 MMBF timber sale near Thorne Bay. The sale was successful and the division plans to use a similar process on future high-value-added sales and some of the higher demand small sales.

The SSE Area has nearly completed a 55-acre pre-commercial thinning operation at Whipple Creek near Ketchikan. The area will be used as a demonstration site to illustrate the management potential of pre-commercial thinning in Southeast Alaska.

The SSE Area is acquiring the needed resources to actively manage the area for forest products and, where feasible, aid the industry by supplying timber. New staff refined the area's information base and the office moved to a more efficient location in the same building.

The division hired Paul Slenkamp as SSE Area Resource Forester. Paul will coordinate the timber sale layout and administer contracts. He brings a wealth of experience from private industry and public forestry.

Kenai Peninsula

Schilter Timber Sale In June, the U.S. Forest Service fire (Kenai Lake) burned over an active commercial timber harvest that the Kenai-Kodiak Area had under contract. As the fire burned through the sale, a subcontracted tree planting crew was just finishing the planting of 14,000 tree seedlings in logged units. Almost all of the newly planted trees were killed by the fire.

Most of the standing timber that remained was damaged, which affected the economic viability of the sale. About 300 MBF of decked pulp logs were also lost to the fire.

Soon after the fire was brought under control, Kenai-Kodiak Area staff and contract purchaser representatives met at the sale site and reached an agreement to terminate the timber sale contract. The state refunded stumpage and other deposits for the portion of the sale units that had not yet been logged but had been consumed by the fire. The state retained tree planting and site preparation deposits and part of the sale performance bond. With these funds, the division will complete reforestation of the affected area and will close out the access road once field operations are completed.

Icelandic Forestry Association Visits Alaska In September, the Kenai-Kodiak Area led a tour of Kenai Peninsula forests for the Icelandic Forestry Association. The group of 74 Icelanders included professional foresters, forest landowners, and others who were simply interested in forests.

The exchange of information and ideas during the tour was a benefit to both Alaskans and Icelanders. Alaskans learned that Iceland has been conducting tree species trials since the 1930s. Of all the circumpolar tree seeds that they have collected, spruce species have exhibited the best growth. And of all the spruce tried, seed from the Kenai Peninsula has proven to be the best.

The field tour featured examples of site preparation and reforestation techniques used to re-establish forests on the Peninsula. The group also looked at commercial timber harvest operations and toured log transfer operations, chip storage, and the ship loading facility in Homer.

Interior

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 and 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 and fires create good grouse habitat and 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 DOF to support this project. The Ruffed Grouse Society also donated money raised at its annual banquet in Fairbanks. Using these funds, the Division of Forestry designated 68 acres of aspen to be felled and a local contractor cut the trees along the south slope of Nenana Ridge in October at a cost of $12,172.

In early May, DOF and the ADF&G conducted a prescribed burn to benefit ruffed grouse near the lower reaches of Nenana Ridge Road. Good conditions allowed the division to burn 16 acres. The project received front page coverage and a color photo in the local newspaper.

When the project began, the participants hoped to clear at least 200 acres each decade through the year 2030. Within just first four years, the 200-acre goal was met. Over the past seven years, project managers have constructed 7.5 miles of forest roads, felled 476 acres of mature aspen in 42 cutting units ranging from six to 20 acres, and burned 67 acres.

Reforestation

Regeneration of harvested or naturally disturbed areas is an essential part of forest management on state land. To achieve a sustained yield of wood fiber, the division collects cones for seed processing, and contracts for seedling growth. DOF cooperates with the University of Alaska and other agencies to conduct research for success in seedling survival.

This year, 191,000 seedlings were grown from the state's seed bank and planted on 502 acres of state land. An additional 258 acres were scarified for natural regeneration, and 161 acres in Haines and Southern Southeast were thinned. Thinning improves growth rates and improves wildlife habitat. The division also provided seed to nonprofit organizations that grow seedlings for private forest landowners in Alaska. The division uses the services of the DNR Division of Agriculture, Plant Materials Center in Palmer for seed storage, germination testing, and shipping of previous seed collections.

DOF and the Alaska Reforestation Council hosted a two-day Forest Practices Reforestation Workshop in Fairbanks in May. The 40 participants included representatives of Alaska Native corporations, private landowners, and managers of other public land such as the university and boroughs. Presentations and field trips focused on the boreal forest and included seed collection, stock type options, optimal planting density, and site preparation techniques. Two guest speakers were Dave Patterson of the Alberta Forest Service, and Mike Newton, emeritus professor of forestry at Oregon State University.

Log Brands

In 2001, the Division of Forestry registered 40 log brands. Of these, 17 were new and 23 were renewals. This is a decrease from the 2000 totals, but is similar to the 1999 registration numbers of 19 new brands and 19 renewals. Chuck Lesher, administrative assistant in Juneau, will prepare a new log brand book for publication at the end of 2002.

Bridge over Dunbar Creek in Tanana Valley State Forest. After an engineer designed the bridge, Fairbanks Area Forestry staff built abutments; delivered the steel beams, cross members, and decking; and assembled the bridge. Those who worked on the bridge: Gary Reabold, Road Engineering Forester; Dave Maxell, Sale Administration Forester; Cliff Hudson, Mechanic/Operator; Arturo Frizzera, Reforestation Technician, and two student interns from Germany. (Gary Maxell)

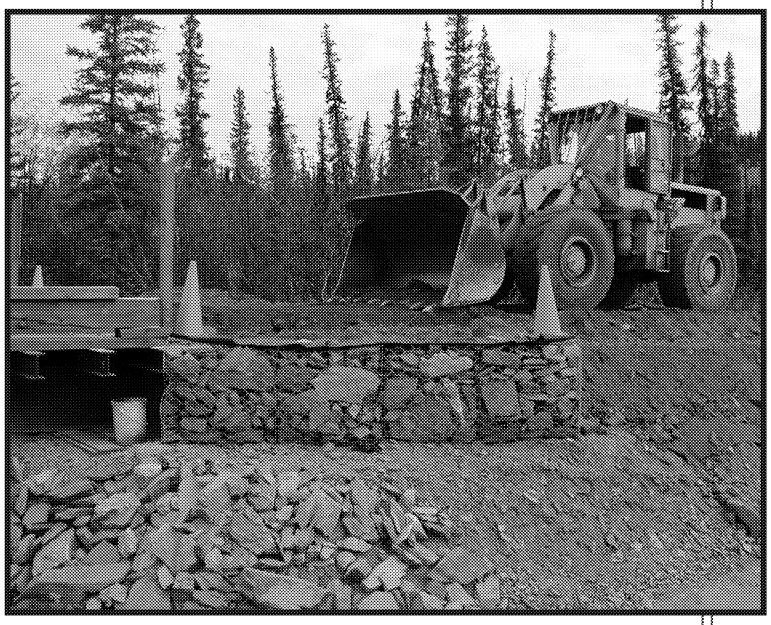
Reforestation on State Land - 2001

Areas	Seedlings Planted	Acres Planted	Acres Scarified	Acres Thinned
Delta	0	0	30	0
Fairbanks	104,000	219	0	0
Kenai/Kodiak	42,000	168	168	0
Mat-Su	6,000	15	0	0
No. Southeast	9,000	30	0	125
So. Southeast	0	0	0	36
Tok	30,000	70	60	0
Totals	191,000	502	258	161

Beach Log Salvage

The Beach Log Salvage Program in Southeast Alaska allows operators to recover valuable forest products from the coastal waters and beaches. The Division of Forestry issued 15 beach log salvage licenses in Fiscal Year 2001. Operators may apply for a license that is in effect for four years with annual renewal and fee payments.

At the end of the 2001, 14 of the 57 identified salvage areas in Southeast Alaska were applied for or licensed. A depressed export market and dwindling pulp market have affected beach log salvage activity this year. Another contributing factor is that the mode of log transport is slowly shifting from log rafts to barges, thus decreasing the amount of logs in the water. However, the division continues to receive inquiries about salvage opportunities.



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 41.17.200).

A DNR management plan guides the use of each state forest. Plan guidelines determine how to manage different uses to complement each other.

Management Plan Updates

The Tanana Valley State Forest Management Plan revision was adopted in September of 2001, after seven years of work by Division of Forestry staff, public and agency working groups, the TVSF Citizens' Advisory Committee, the interagency planning team, and individuals who commented on the plan. The plan will guide the management of approximately 1.81 million acres of state-owned lands within the Tanana Valley State Forest.

Assistant Northern Region Forester Paul Maki looks on as DNR Commissioner Pat Pourchot signs the revised TVSF Plan. Paul worked on the revision for seven years. (Karen Gordon)

The Haines State Forest Management Plan was signed in 1986. Due to increases in commercial recreation activity on the state forest in recent years, the division began a revision of the management plan in 2000. The public process to review the plan was combined with the revision of the Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve Management Plan and creation of the Northern Southeast Area Plan.

Scoping meetings with the public and many different interest groups started in September 2000. The division received about 600 comments on all three plans. About six were specific to the Haines State Forest Plan. Most of the contentious issues concerned motorized, commercial recreation operations in the eagle preserve.

Following the meetings, the division created a public review draft of the Haines State Forest Management Plan. In this plan, the areas where timber harvest is allowed remained the same as in the original 1986 management plan. The allowable cut was reduced from 69.6 MMBF per decade to 58.8 MMBF. This was due to removing University of Alaska and Mental Health Trust lands, which the division no longer manages, from the plan.

The public review draft plan creates a forest-wide special use designation that gives DNR more authority for managing commercial recreational activities. Under this designation, DOF created three categories of commercial recreation operators based on the number of clients per day.

Each sub-management unit was then assigned a management scheme based on whether or not an activity is allowed, not allowed, or requires a permit. The draft plan proposes limiting the West Chilkat, Takhin/Kicking Horse and the Ripinski trail areas to small and medium sized groups. All areas require a permit for large commercial recreation operations. Small operations are required to get permits in the Ripinski Trail and the Mosquito Lake Campground areas only. All of the state forest remains open for personal use recreation.

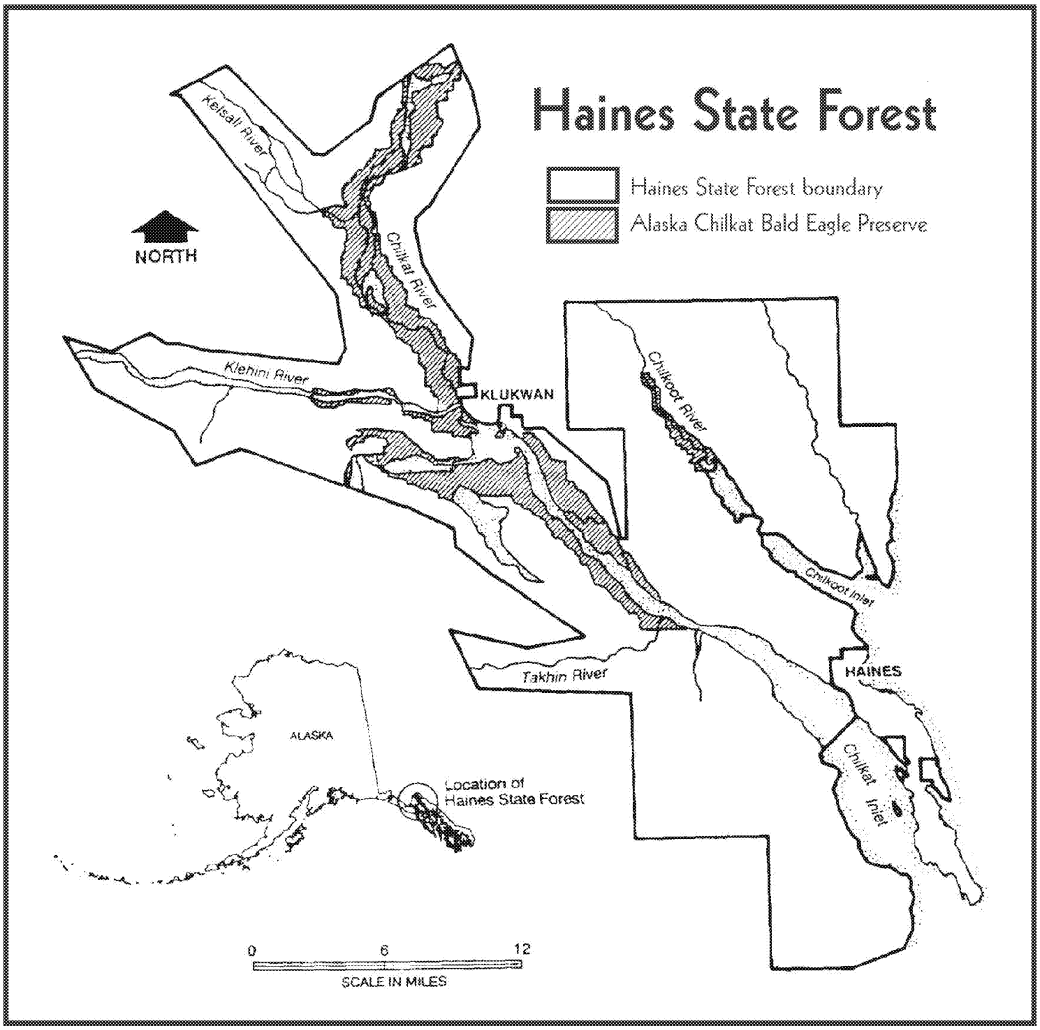
Haines State Forest

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, 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 Alaska Division of Parks and 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

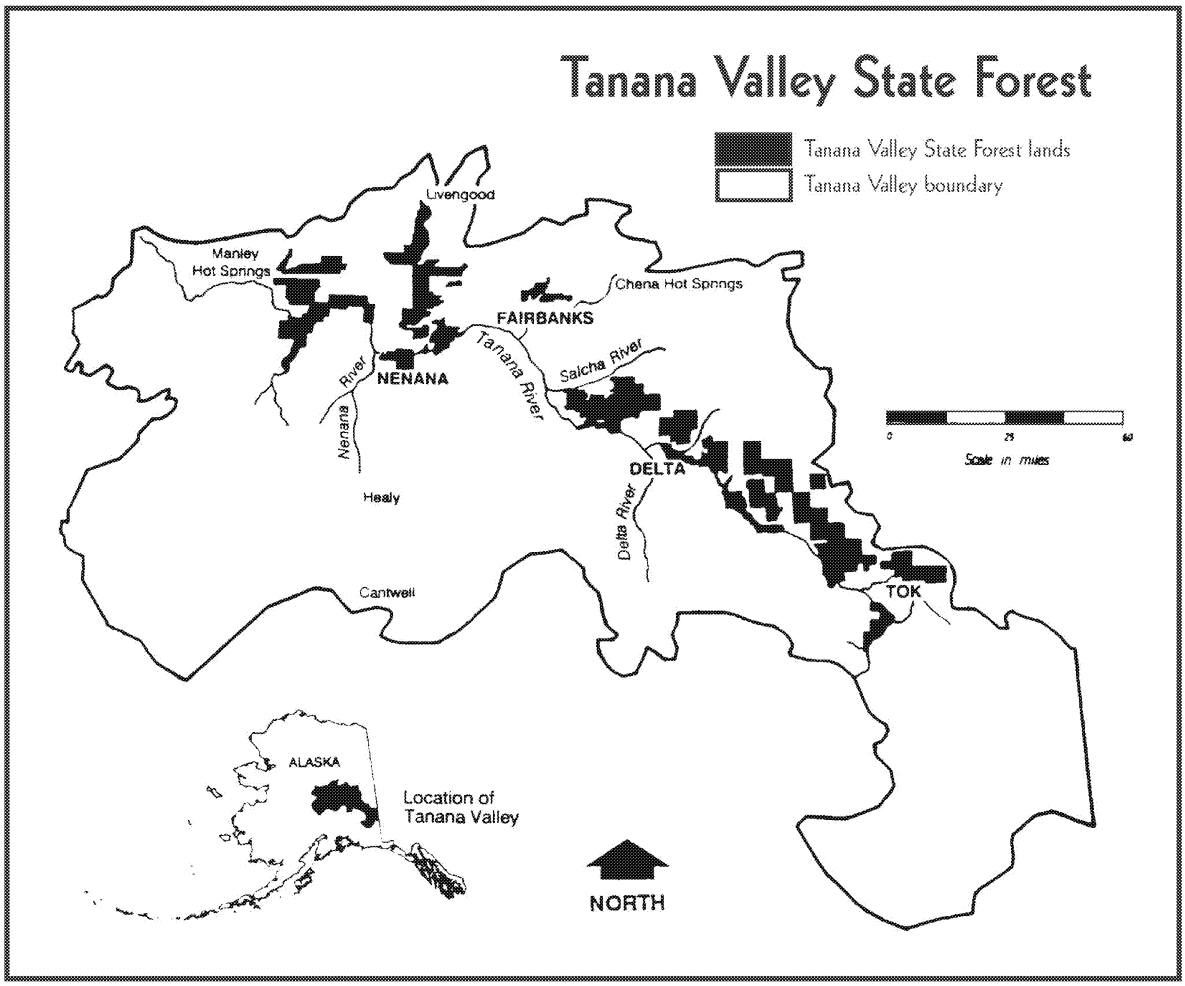
The Tanana Valley State Forest's 1.81 million acres lie almost entirely within the Tanana River Basin, located in the east-central part of Alaska. The forest extends 265 miles, from near the Canadian border to Manley Hot Springs. It varies in elevation from 275 feet along the Tanana River to over 5,000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

2001 Aerial Survey Results

Aerial detection mapping is done annually to document the location and extent of active forest insect and disease damage. Each year approximately one-third of Alaska's forested lands are surveyed. In 2001, more than 22 million acres were surveyed, even though poor weather precluded flights into some areas of concern.

Surveyors found an overall decrease in insect activity for the third consecutive year. However, some areas rarely damaged by insects, such as Sleetmute and Wood Tikchik State Park did report insect damage this year. The most important diseases and declines are characterized as chronic conditions and remain relatively unchanged.

Insect Damage

Spruce needle aphid defoliation occurred on about 20,200 acres in southeast Alaska from Long Island to Yakutat Bay. Most of the defoliation was located in the mainland beach fringe from the Stikine River to Excursion Inlet. The urban areas of Juneau and Wrangell were notably hard hit.

Black-headed budworm caused heavy defoliation of spruce and hemlock in Wood Tikchik State Park (31,000 acres) and Prince William Sound (20,000 acres). Black-headed budworm populations rise and fall rapidly, within one to five years, and appear to be controlled largely by weather conditions.

No **spruce budworm** damage was mapped in areas where it had been mapped in the past. The only activity noted was 9,500 acres of light defoliation along the Teklanika River, while 16,000 acres of light to moderate defoliation was observed along the Tanana River.

Spruce bark beetle infestations increased by 21 percent, from 86,038 acres in 2000, to 104,098 acres in 2001. Since 1997, the total area of beetle activity has declined precipitously. However, previously infested areas (1,845,000 acres in the last six years) remain at moderate to high risk for wildfire due to the large volume of dead trees, both standing and on the ground.

Spruce beetle activity in southeast Alaska was down to a low of 950 acres from a high of 35,700 acres in 1996. About 600 acres of this activity was in the Chilkat drainage near the Canadian border. There were only 260 acres of activity in Glacier Bay National Park. No new acres were infested along the Taku River near the Canadian border nor on the Craig or Wrangell Ranger Districts.

Spruce stands near Seldovia, Anchorage, McCarthy, and Lake Iliamna, continue to have the most spruce beetle activity. The beetles are found in previously uninfested stands and/or adjacent to ongoing infestations, which provide suitable breeding material for the beetle. Spruce beetle activity is expected to persist in these areas until weather conditions, lack of adequate host material, or other disturbances reduce their populations.

Diseases

The most important diseases and declines of Alaskan forests in 2001 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 resource and alter key ecological processes including forest structure, composition, and succession.

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. The mistletoe's impact in managed stands depends on the number of large infected trees remaining after harvest.

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

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

Spruce needle rust occurred at high levels in several areas of southeast Alaska for the third consecutive year. Cone and other foliar diseases of conifers were generally at low levels throughout Alaska in 2001.

Canker fungi were at endemic levels, causing substantial, but unmeasured, damage to hardwood species in southcentral and interior Alaska. Canker fungi on conifers, particularly Sitka spruce and subalpine fir, occurred at higher than normal levels in southeast Alaska and caused branch dieback.

Tomentosus root rot continues to cause growth loss and mortality of white spruce in all age classes in south-central and interior Alaska. Various **stem and butt rot fungi** cause considerable defect in mature white spruce, paper birch, and aspen. **Saprophytic decay** of spruce bark beetle-killed trees, primarily caused by the **red belt fungus**, continues to rapidly develop on and degrade dead spruce.

Other Significant Damage

Several introduced pests have been causing concern in the Anchorage area for several years. The **Sitka spruce weevil** and the **European black slug** may become established in Alaska if detection and eradication methods are not quickly employed. Fortunately, no Sitka spruce weevil was reported in 2001.

Another insect, possibly introduced, caused heavy **birch defoliation** throughout Anchorage and the Mat-Su Valley. Although it has not been positively identified, entomologists suspect the defoliation was caused by the larval form of a sawfly which had not been identified in Alaska before 1996.

Bird vetch, *Vicca cracca*, is an aggressive plant invader along portions of the Seward highway in South Anchorage. It has been spotted along trails in Chugach State Park and throughout Anchorage.

Flooding was quite extensive along the Tanana, Chisana, and Nabesna rivers, as well as the Yukon River between Koyukuk and Galena. Damage to trees and shrubs was not evident during the 2001 survey. However, tree mortality or defoliation is expected throughout the floodplain next year as a result of the stress caused by these floods.

Porcupines and **brown bears** continue to cause damage by feeding on several conifer species in localized areas of Southeast Alaska.

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 survey 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 (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.

2001 Forest Insect and Disease Activity

Damage Agent	State & Private	National Forest	Other Federal	Native Corporation	Total 2001	Difference from 2000
Alder Defoliation[1]	366	759	62	0	1,186	-4,384
Aspen Defoliation[1]	582	—	185	1,553	2,320	-4,647
Birch Defoliation[1]	81	—	2,682	454	3,216	591
Black-Headed Budworm	27,617	12,889	1	10,217	50,724	50,724
Cedar Decline Faders[2]	41	1,218	5	83	1,347	1,347
Cottonwood Defoliation[3]	7,962	1,480	362	92	9,896	4,507
Hemlock Sawfly Defoliation	217	709	39	299	1,265	-3,843
IPS Engraver Beetle	15	8	19	8	49	-23,020
Larch Sawfly	514	—	16,588	719	17,821	-47,038
Large Aspen Tortix	5,862	—	337	930	7,129	1,553
Spruce Aphid	6,595	10,324	2,649	594	20,163	-13,156
Spruce Beetle	47,712	1,890	23,885	30,611	104,098	18,060
Spruce Budworm	25,499	—	—	20	25,520	-15,546
Spruce Needle Rust	174	1,606	7,609	1,255	10,644	8,353
Sub-Alpine Fir Beetle	51	3	2	—	56	56
Willow Defoliation[3]	144	59	5,773	4,889	10,865	-25,137
Total Acres	**123,432**	**30,943**	**60,198**	**51,725**	**266,299**	**-51,580**

[1] Significant contributors include leaf miners and leaf rollers for the respective host

[2] Acres represent only spots where faders were noticed currently. Refer to previous annual reports for overall area of cedar decline infestation.

[3] Significant contributors include cottonwood leaf beetle and leaf rollers

The figures above are from *Forest Insect and Disease Conditions in Alaska - 2001*, prepared by the USDA 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 (907/269-8460) or the USDA Forest Service (907/743-9455).

Forest Insect Activity 1996 - 2001

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 1996 to 2001, 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 1996 through 2001. 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)

Damage Agent	1996 Total	1997 Total	1998 Total	1999 Total	2000 Total	2001 Total	Cumulative Totals
Birch defoliation	3.2	271.9	0.5	2.8	2.6	3.2	284.3
Black-headed budworm	1.2	30.8	—	—	—	50.7	80.6
Cottonwood defoliation[1]	5.4	3.0	6.6	5.6	5.4	9.9	35.1
Hemlock sawfly	8.3	6.6	3.9	—	5.1	1.3	25.3
IPS Engravers	14.2	8.9	14.3	3.9	23.0	—	63.8
Large aspen tortrix	6.4	5.1	21.8	13.3	5.6	7.1	59.1
Larch sawfly	606.9	267.6	461.8	159.3	64.9	17.8	1,494.1
Spruce beetle	1,133.0	563.7	316.8	253.3	86.0	104.1	1,845.4
Willow defoliation	50.1	3.5	123.1	180.4	36.0	10.9	376.8
Spruce aphid	0.5	0.5	46.4	4.3	37.6	20.2	105.8
Spruce budworm	235.9	38.4	87.8	0.7	41.1	25.5	349.7
Total Acres	**2,065.1**	**1,200**	**1,083**	**623.6**	**307.3**	**250.7**	**4,720.0**

[1] Represents polygons coded to cottonwood defoliation and cottonwood leaf beetle.

Insect & Disease Information Online

For information on forest health and forest insect surveys, and links to forest health web sites, visit:
www.dnr.state.ak.us:80/forestry/web_bugs.htm

Visit the USDA 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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(907) 269-8460; fax: (907) 269-8902
e-mail: roger_burnside@dnr.state.ak.us

Areas of southeast Alaska have experienced four consecutive years of spruce aphid defoliation. (2001 Forest Health Protection Report - Alaska)

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.

2001 Highlights

- Prepared forest stewardship plans for 40 Alaska landowners.
- One Alaska Native corporation completed a forest stewardship plan for its land.
- Awarded forest stewardship planning grants, totaling $131,282, to six Alaska Native corporations.
- Planted seedlings on 319 acres of private land through a cooperative agreement with the Kenai Peninsula Borough Spruce Bark Beetle Mitigation Program.
- Provided forestry expertise to public schools, community organizations, and local governments.

Individual Landowners

Participation in the Forest Stewardship Program continues to increase. In 2001, plans were prepared for 40 Alaska landowners covering 2,590 acres. Since the program began in 1992, a total of 393 forest stewardship plans have been developed for individual landowners covering 30,035 acres. Participation is greatest on the Kenai Peninsula with the Matanuska-Susitina and Tanana valleys also having many participants. Reforestation after spruce beetle kill is becoming the most common management objective. Many participating landowners have strong interest in aesthetics and wildlife. Defensible space from wildfire is a growing concern.

Cost-Share Programs

The Forest Stewardship Program provides field inspections for implementing approved management practices through cost-share programs. Although the Stewardship Incentive Program (SIP) and Forest Incentive Program (FIP) have received little federal funding in recent years, the Kenai Peninsula Borough Spruce Bark Beetle Mitigation Program provided $60,000 in cost-share funding in 2001. With this funding, 90,465 tree seedlings were planted on 14 ownerships, covering a total of 319 acres. The landowners contributed $24,745. Alaska expects to receive federal Forestry Incentive Program funding in 2002 to continue reforestation of beetle impacted areas. In 2002, the Forest Stewardship Program will also administer cost-share projects for fuel reduction in some wildland-urban interface areas.

Alaska Native Corporations

Native corporations and reservations are the largest private landowners in Alaska and, therefore, providing grants to them for forest planning is an important part of the Forest Stewardship Program. The Native corporation in Tyonek completed a forest stewardship plan in 2001 covering 30,022 forested acres. This brings the number of Alaska Native corporations with forest stewardship plans to 15, covering 3,081,386 forested acres. Six new forest stewardship planning grants were awarded to Native corporations in 2001 totaling $131,282 and covering 793,018 total acres. Two other Native corporations have projects supported by Forest Stewardship Planning Grants underway. The division will continue to provide assistance to Native corporations in 2002.

Public Services

Forest Stewardship Program personnel provided a variety of public services to local governments, public schools, and community fairs. Services included general education, technical forestry, and tree seedling distribution. Forest Stewardship Program staff also made site visits and referrals for numerous landowners who did not pursue a written plan. Also in 2001, the Forest Stewardship Program Coordinator attended two meetings of the Western States Stewardship Committee, which addresses private forest landowner issues common to western states.

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 private landowner interests. Areas of discussion include grant and cost-share rates, eligibility criteria, and forest stewardship plan requirements. The committee met twice in 2001. In the next year the committee will consult with the Alaska Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation on the Assessment of Need for the Forest Legacy Program. Forest Stewardship Committee members are listed on page 43.

Community Forestry Program

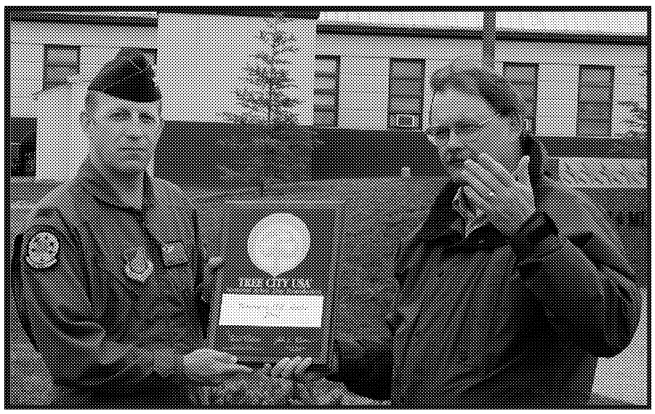
Community, or urban, forestry is the management of forests and related natural resources in communities. The Community Forestry Program helps local governments expand and care for their valuable natural resources. The program:

- Encourages and supports sound management of natural resources in Alaska communities
- Provides information, training, and technical assistance to local government, tree care professionals, and volunteers
- Fosters partnerships between government, business, nonprofits, and volunteers
- Encourages and supports projects that demonstrate good arboricultural and community forestry practices
- Encourages the private sector to support and fund community forestry efforts
- Administers federally funded grants for pilot programs, research projects, and demonstrations that support program objectives

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 43.

2001 Highlights

- Held the 30-hour Alaska Community Tree Steward Course in Fairbanks. A series of speakers covered tree biology; soils and fertilization; selecting, planting and caring for trees and shrubs; pruning; problem diagnosis; and landscape design. Thirteen people completed the course and agreed to donate 30 hours to local community forestry projects.
- Wasilla applied to become the first non-military Tree City USA in Alaska. Elmendorf Air Force Base, Fort Richardson, and Eielson Air Force Base submitted renewal applications. Chugach Electric Association and Matanuska Electric Association both submitted renewal applications for the Tree Line USA program, recognizing them for good arboricultural practices.
- The division is working with Sitka, Anchorage, Juneau, and Wasilla to develop comprehensive community forestry programs.
- Awarded Arbor Day grants to the City of Bethel; Chickaloon Village Traditional Council; Joy Elementary School (Fairbanks); Mat-Su Valley American Legion; Northland Pioneer Grange (Palmer); North Pole High School; Polaris School (Anchorage); City and Borough of Sitka; Tok Lions Club; and Wasilla Middle School.
- Sponsored three classes entitled Pruning Young Trees for Structure and Form: Principles and Practice. Co-sponsored by the Pacific Northwest Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture, the classes were attended by 73 people, including 15 ISA-certified arborists.



State Forester Jeff Jahnke presents the Elmendorf Air Force Base Tree City USA award to Colonel Mark Risi. (John See)

- Acquired $6,000 in federal funds to plant two Millennium Groves. In Fairbanks, staff and volunteers planted 28 trees along a busy road into town from the airport. The City and Borough of Juneau Tree Committee planted a grove along the walkway between the state office building and the governor's residence.
- The 15-member Alaska Community Forest Council met regularly to advise the division on program priorities and activities. Members reviewed grant applications and made recommendations on funding projects. The council also placed displays and publications on tree planting and care at five nurseries in three towns. In addition to supporting the state program, members are valuable partners in local community forestry programs.
- Provided a total of 242 National Tree Trust seedlings, potted in 1999, to Division of Forestry in Palmer, and in Anchorage to Kincaid Park, Tyson Elementary School, and Alaska Botanical Garden.

- Received another 4,600 native white spruce seedlings from the National Tree Trust. The division will maintain 300 for planting in communities. Provided 2,000 to Mat-Su Borough, 1,500 to UAA, and 800 to the Municipality of Anchorage.
- Technical assists to communities: 310
  Training provided: 559 seat hours
  Volunteer hours: 1,304 hours
  Trees planted: 4,786

Conservation Education

The Division of Forestry's Conservation Education Program encourages children and adults to learn about and be good stewards of Alaska's valuable natural resources. Project Learning Tree is an important component of this program. PLT is a nationally recognized curriculum that uses the forest to teach children about wise use of natural resources and offers ways for children and adults to take a more active role in conservation in their schools and communities. The curriculum is available to those who participate in a workshop.

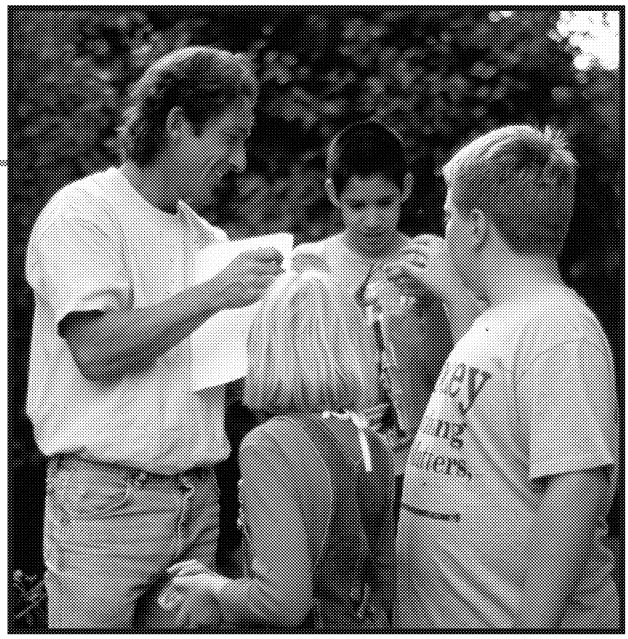
Even though the Conservation Education Coordinator position was vacant for the first half of the year, 84 people were trained in five separate PLT workshops. Workshop participants came from across the state, from Little Diomede Island and Stebbins to Sitka and Juneau. Also, the University of Alaska in Fairbanks and Anchorage, and Alaska Pacific University encouraged student teachers to become trained in PLT.

Matt Weaver joined the division as coordinator of the Conservation Education Program in June. Matt taught high school biology for 24 years in the Mat-Su and Anchorage School Districts and in Holy Cross. He was named the Alaska Teacher of the Year in 1993. His experience and skills are valuable assets to the Division of Forestry.

In addition to PLT workshops, the division sponsored or participated in many other educational activities ranging from teaching about watersheds at the Anchorage Waterways Council Wet Day, to presenting PLT lessons at the Alaska Native Health and Education Convention.

The division also laid important groundwork for 2002. Workshops are scheduled in Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Soldotna and all student teachers in Alaska will have the opportunity to attend a workshop. Some school districts are also offering incentives for educators to become trained in PLT.

- Produced:
  - Alaska Community Forestry Program brochure
  - A new program logo
  - Full-color poster, How to Plant a Tree
  - How to Grow Spruce from Seed fact sheet
  - Revised Recommended Specifications for Planting Trees and Shrubs



Conservation Education Coordinator Matt Weaver leads Boys and Girls Club students in a schoolyard safari.

In June, the Conservation Education Program will sponsor a Firewise for Educators workshop in Homer, the first of its kind in Alaska. Using a grant from the Western State Fire Managers, PLT will train 20 selected educators in fire ecology, fire behavior, and ways to protect homes and communities from wildfire. Teachers will have access to the Alaskan curriculum guide and a classroom kit with materials to gain hands-on experience with fire behavior.

In Alaska, the Division of Forestry, Alaska Forest Association, and the USDA Forest Service fund Project Learning Tree. Other sponsors include the Cooperative Extension Service, Alaska Department of Education, Alaska Natural Resource and Outdoor Education Association, Alaska Women in Timber, and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

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.

2001 Fire Season

During the 2001 fire season in Alaska, 351 wildland fires burned 218,114 acres. By comparison, the average number of fires each year from 1990 through 1999 was 630 fires and 978,000 acres burned. The Division of Forestry experienced the largest number of fires because it protects the most populated areas in the state. A total of 297 fires burned 87,126.7 acres on state-protected lands. The USDA Forest Service had 10 wildland fires that burned 2,081.6 acres. Forty-four wildland fires occurred within the Bureau of Land Management Alaska Fire Service protection zones, burning 128,905.6 acres.

Fire activity began on March 20 when a one-half acre fire was reported in the Haines Area. Two fires reported on March 21 burned a combined 2.1 acres on Kodiak Island before being suppressed by the U.S. Coast Guard. The last reported wildfire of the fire season occurred on October 10 in the Fairbanks Area and burned less than an acre. Fires occurred as follows during the 2001 fire season:

Month	Fires	Acres
March	3	2.6
April	27	15.1
May	128	1,700.9
June	131	212,717.4
July	32	309.0
August	15	4.4
September	12	3,343.6
October	3	20.9

The first lightning-caused fire started on May 31 in the Mat-Su Area near Bunitlana Lake. It burned less than an acre. By the end of the fire season, lightning had ignited 18 wildfires and burned 867 acres on lands protected by the Division of Forestry. The largest wildfire of the season, the Survey Line Fire on Fort Wainwright, was ignited June 20 and eventually burned 112,112 acres. The second largest fire also started on June 20 just south of the Survey Line Fire. The Fish Creek Fire, managed by the Fairbanks Area, burned 84,730 acres before being declared out on September 10.

Incident Management Team Activity A Type I Interagency Management Team was assigned to one fire in Alaska and Type II Incident Management Teams were assigned to three fires.

Aviation briefing at the Division of Forestry facility in Soldotna.

On June 25, a prescribed burn in the Chugach National Forest escaped and resulted in the Kenai Lake Fire. A Type I Incident Management Team was needed due to the complexity of the wildfire. The fire burned for several days and consumed 3,260 acres before being contained. It was declared out on November 13.

A Type II Incident Management Team was ordered for the Mystery Hills Fire on the Kenai Peninsula. Lightning ignited the fire on June 28 and it grew to 697 acres before being contained. It was declared out on August 20.

The Red Fox Fire was reported in the Tok Area on June 29. Initial attack forces held the fire at 150 acres, but an overhead team was ordered due to an extended mop-up and a shortage of available management personnel. The fire was declared out on July 15.

The Fish Creek Fire, located near Anderson and described above, grew quickly and required a Type II Interagency Management Team from Alaska.

Lower 48 Support The fire season in the Lower 48 required many of Alaska's fire resources. The Division of Forestry provided 232 personnel to support fire fighting efforts in18 states. The division also mobilized four 20-person Type II fire crews. The Tazlina Type I Hotshot Crew worked for several months in Nevada and California. The division also provided two PC-7 airplanes and flight crews for several months.

2001 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
2001	**351**	**218,113.9**

Fire Activity by Landowner[1]

Landowner	Number	Acres
Military	31	119,394.2
State	65	87,389.9
National Park Service	2	6,242.2
USDA Forest Service	3	2,078.3
Fish & Wildlife Service	16	1,613.8
Bureau of Land Mgmt.	2	1,084.7
Private	194	197.8
Native Claims Act Lands	25	108.1
Boroughs/Cities	12	4.8
Bureau of Indian Affairs	1	0.1
Total	**351**	**218,113.9**

[1]land ownership where fire began.

Emergency Out-of-State Crew Use

Year	Crews	Year	Crews
1992	5	1997	0
1993	0	1998	2
1994	83	1999	11
1995	1	2000	73
1996	59	2001	20

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

Causes of Fires on State-Protected Land

Cause	Number	Acres
Exhaust	2	84,730.4
Lightning	18	867.4
Trash burns	43	822.2
Campfires	51	261.5
Other causes	34	234.4
Chimney/flue sparks	4	105.3
Burning dumps	6	28.5
Slash burns	17	26.0
Field burns	12	16.0
Land clearing	21	10.6
Children	23	9.5
Arson-related	3	0.8
Burning buildings	13	4.4
Powerlines	21	3.7
Smoking	11	3.0
Vehicles	15	2.1
Fireworks	3	0.9
Total	**297**	**87,126.7**

Emergency Firefighter Wages

Year	State	Federal	Total
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
2001	3,236,581	1,867,826	5,104,407
Total	**$35,270,747**	**$20,615,524**	**$55,886,271**

2001 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	87	121.6	14	10.0	4	246.5	1	20.0	106	398.1
Copper River	4	1.3	11	1.5	0	0	0	0	15	2.8
Delta	7	6.3	2	1.7	1	0.5	0	0	10	8.5
Fairbanks	49	25.5	9	84,757.1	1	20.0	3	5.4	62	84,808.0
Haines	2	0.9	1	3.0	0	0	0	0	3	3.9
Kenai/Kodiak	54	20.1	15	12.6	1	0.1	2	712.0	72	744.8
Southwest	0	0	11	89.5	1	5.0	5	914.2	17	1,008.7
Tok	6	150.5	5	1.3	1	0.1	0	0	12	151.9
Totals	**209**	**326.2**	**68**	**84,876.7**	**9**	**272.2**	**11**	**1,651.6**	**297**	**87,126.7**

USDA Forest Service-Protected Areas

Area	Critical		Full		Modified		Limited		Total	
	No.	Acres	No.	Acres	No.	Acres	No.	Acres	No.	Acres
Chugach N.F.	5	3.1	4	3.5	1	2,075.0	0	0	10	2,081.6
Tongass N.F.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	**5**	**3.1**	**4**	**3.5**	**1**	**2,075.0**	**0**	**0**	**10**	**2,081.6**

BLM Alaska Fire Service-Protected Areas

Zone	Critical		Full		Modified		Limited		Total	
	No.	Acres	No.	Acres	No.	Acres	No.	Acres	No.	Acres
Galena	1	0.7	0	0	0	0	2	1,795.0	3	1,795.7
Military	0	0	4	112.1	0	0	26	119,281.4	30	119,393.5
Tanana	0	0	1	2.0	2	33.5	3	6,323.7	6	6,359.2
Upper Yukon	0	0	1	8	2	504.4	2	844.8	5	1,357.2
Totals	**1**	**0.7**	**6**	**122.1**	**4**	**537.9**	**33**	**128,244.9**	**44**	**128,905.6**

Statewide Totals by Protection Level

Critical		Full		Modified		Limited		Total	
No.	Acres	No.	Acres	No.	Acres	No.	Acres	No.	Acres
215	330.0	78	85,002.3	14	2,885.1	44	129,896.5	351	218,113.9

Alaska Type I Team Supports Recovery at World Trade Center Disaster

Joe Stam, Incident Commander of the Alaska Interagency Incident Management Team, led the Type I team in support of the World Trade Center disaster recovery. From October 8 to November 8 the team members supported the Fire Department of New York and the New York Police Department personnel assigned to the disaster site. Initially the team assisted the fire department with daily planning of recovery efforts and later provided logistical support to the fire and police departments. The Alaska team was the third national team that assisted.

Forestry employees performed a variety of support functions including occasional work at Ground Zero on the debris pile. Forestry employees worked directly with the FDNY officers cataloging and recording data on the bodies and equipment recovered, at the warehouse, and at the Hilton Hotel base station located well away from the World Trade Center site. For many it was their first trip to New York City and they brought back many stories of the friendliness they encountered.

The Alaska Wildland Fire Coordinating Group sponsored a ceremony and reception for the team upon their return to bring closure to the experience.

Division of Forestry employees and assignments at the World Trade Center disaster site:

Joe Stam, Chief of Fire and Aviation - Incident Commander

Lynn Wilcock, Mat-Su District Fire Management Officer - Operations

Bill Beebe, Coastal Region Fire Management Officer - Information Officer

Michael Bye, Southwest District Warehouseman - Ground Support Unit

Ken Cruickshanks, Mechanic, Eagle River Shop - Facilities Unit Leader

Richard Gardner, Delta Area Warehouseman - Supply Unit

Karen Gordon, Northern Region Administrative Assistant - Data Processor

Martin Maricle, Valdez-Copper River Area Forester - Deputy Logistics Section Chief

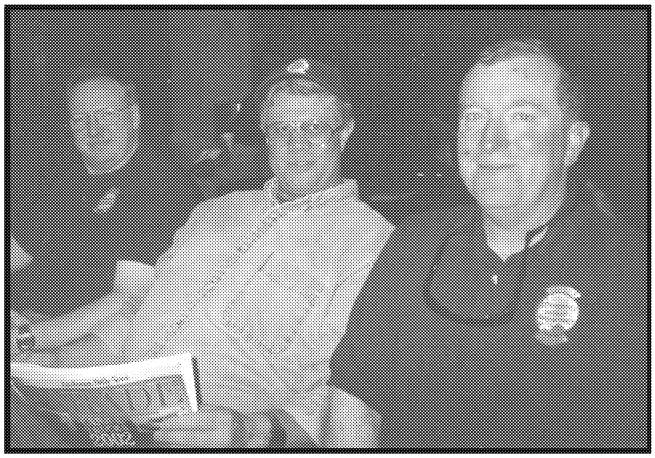
Allen Martin, Forest Technician, Fairbanks Area - Resource Unit Leader

Jim Odden, Support Technician, SW District - Ground Support Unit Leader

Joanne Singer, Delta Area - Data Processor

Tammatha Whitmer, Warehouse, Fairbanks Area - Supply Unit

Tammatha Whitmer, Karen Gordon, and Joanne Singer (left to right) at the Anchorage airport, waiting for their flight to New York City.



Alan Martin, Mike Stubbs, and Martin Maricle (left to right) waiting for their flight to New York City. (Karen Gordon)

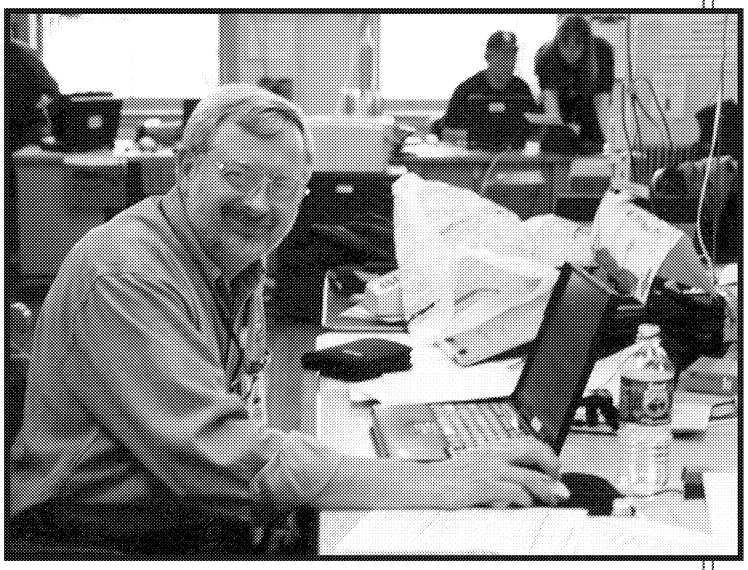
Type I Team Incident Commander

Fire Program Manager Joe Stam ended his career on the Alaska Interagency Type I Team at the end of 2001 after serving on the team for 16 years. Joe started his career on the Type I team as an Operations Section Chief in 1986 and finished his stint as the first ever State of Alaska employee to hold the position of Incident Commander. He fulfilled the role of Incident Commander for the last five years and as IC led the team on nine Type I assignments.

There are 16 teams, similar to Alaska's, that are designated as National Type I teams because they are used on all-risk incidents across the United States. The national teams are given the toughest assignments such as the Yellowstone Fires of 1988 and the disastrous Miller's Reach Fire of 1996 in Alaska. During his tenure as Incident Commander, Joe took his team on assignments in Alaska, Idaho, Montana, and New York City.

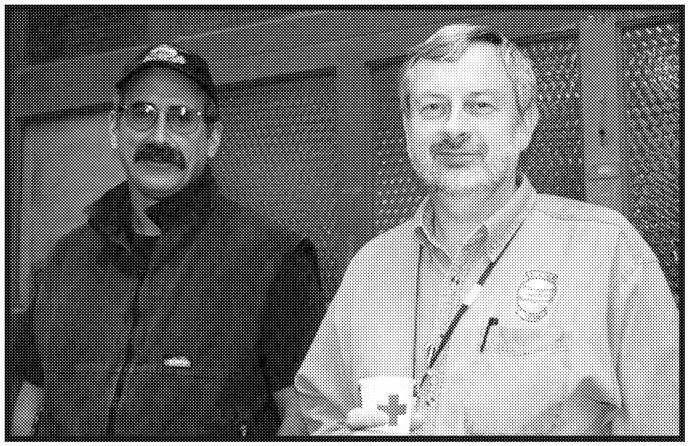
While Joe was IC, he successfully emphasized the interagency nature of fire in Alaska, ensuring that firefighters from the Alaska Wildland Fire Coordinating Group and structure fire departments received opportunities for training and experience. This has strengthened both the Type I team and the relationships between agencies, Native corporations, and structure fire departments. He has left a legacy of good working relationships, renewed commitment to fire management, and an outstanding record for the team nationally.

Joe recalls the highlights of his career were serving as Operations Section Chief in Yellowstone in 1988 and the Fire Season of 2000 in Montana where fire burned around his Incident Command Post. The grand finale was leading the Alaska Team to New York City to assist the fire department and the City of New York with recovery operations on the World Trade Center terrorist attack. "Everyone in America wanted to go help after the terrorist attack of September 11. Being able to actually go and help and represent the people of Alaska was an honor and a privilege," Stam said. "What a great way to end my career on the Alaska Team."



Type I Team Incident Commander Joe Stam at the Incident Command Center in New York City. (Karen Gordon)

Alaska's Type I Team



Deputy Incident Commander Dave Dash (left) and Incident Commander Joe Stam in New York City. (Karen Gordon)

Fire Program Implementation

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 85 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 or, better yet, prevent from beginning. As homes, businesses, and subdivisions expand into the wildland, the number of such fires increases. Fire prevention education is the most effective tool for decreasing the number of human-caused fires.

Burn permits are required from May 1 through September 30. The permits are issued free of charge at DOF offices, local fire departments, and will soon be available over the internet. In 2001, the division issued over 6,000 permits. There are currently 17,000 active permits as many are good for three years. Issuing permits allows DOF to personally inform members of the public about safe burning practices, an effective means of reducing the number of human-caused fires and expensive false alarms.

Fire prevention is promoted at schools, fairs, and other public gatherings, and through public service announcements. In 2001, the division made presentations at 82 schools reaching about 9,500 students and teachers. Many students receive these messages a number of times in their elementary school years and hopefully they will pay long term benefits.

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.

When burning violations occur, the division issues written warnings or citations, which may result in a combination of fines, restitution for suppression costs, public service, or jail terms. In 2001, the division issued 80 written warnings and 10 citations for escaped fires.

Wildland Urban Interface Projects

The National Fire Plan has provided states with funds, some on a competitive basis, to reduce the threat of fire in wildland/urban interface areas. Funds are also available for information and education programs, and mitigation and prevention efforts by homeowners and communities.

The grants to Alaska will be used for the following:

• Complete a map of vegetation in the Fairbanks area and Mat-Su Borough. The likelihood of wildfire may be greatly increased or reduced depending on the type and amount of vegetation in an area because plants are the main fuel source. The data in the vegetation maps will be used to run software models of how a fire would spread under different scenarios. This allows fire managers to plan appropriate mitigation and fire suppression tactics for specific locations.

• In partnership with UAF, the state will develop a pilot project to use chipped trees, which were cut to reduce fire hazards. The chips will be combined with sewage sludge, another waste product, to produce a new and useful product.

• Grants will cover a portion of the costs for homeowners to create defensible space on their property. Work may include thinning, pruning, disposal of slash; site preparation, seeding, and planting of less flammable plant species. Projects are taking place in Fairbanks and the Matanuska Valley.

• A grant to the division to coordinate with the Municipality of Anchorage and the Anchorage Soil and Water Conservation District to implement mitigation and prevention measures, develop fire plans, and carry out a public education program. In 2001, the grant funded chipping and wood disposal services for homeowners, defensible space demonstrations, distribution of Firewise informational packets, television and radio public service announcements, and other mediums such as bus signs and cinema advertising to increase public awareness. Anchorage also used fire crews to remove trees to reduce fuels.

The Division of Forestry is committed to reducing the threat of wildfire in wildland/urban interface areas and will continue efforts to reduce hazards, prevent fires, and provide information to the public.

Grants to Rural Communities

Each year the Volunteer Fire Assistance program provides grants on a 50/50 matching basis to rural fire departments. This program improves the capability and effectiveness of rural fire departments to protect lives and other investments. In 2001, 39 rural volunteer fire departments in Alaska received $162,140 in VFA funds. The grants will be used to organize, train, and equip rural fire departments. Grants helped to purchase portable pumps and nozzles, radio communications equipment, portable generators, and pagers.

Shop Manager Dave DeHart and Willow Volunteer Fire Department Fire Chief Lori Wiertsma with a pickup truck and pump the division secured through the Federal Excess Property Program. (Lynn Wilcock)

2001 Volunteer Fire Assistance Grants

Tri-Valley Volunteer Fire Dept.	$5000	Butte Volunteer Fire Dept.	$5000
Steese Area Volunteer Fire Dept.	$2600	Sutton Volunteer Fire Dept.	$5000
Valdez Fire Dept.	$1052	Talkeetna Volunteer Fire Dept.	$5000
Rural Deltana Volunteer Fire Dept.	$5000	Willow Volunteer Fire Dept.	$5000
White Mountain Volunteer Fire Dept.	$5000	Seward Fire Dept.	$2500
Ester Volunteer Fire Dept.	$5000	Homer Volunteer Fire Dept.	$5000
Chena/Goldstream Fire & Rescue	$4977	Moose Pass Volunteer Fire Company	$4000
North Pole Fire Dept.	$4875	Anchor Point Volun. Fire Dept. & Rescue	$5000
Tok Volunteer Fire Dept.	$5000	Womens Bay Volunteer Fire Dept.	$3699
City of Ketchikan Fire Dept.	$5000	Bear Creek Fire Service Area	$3100
Port Alexander Fire Dept.	$1500	City of Kenai Fire Dept.	$4525
Haines Fire Dept.	$1400	Kachemak Emergency Services	$4960
Elfin Cove Fire Dept.	$1080	Old Harbor Volunteer Fire Dept.	$5000
Takotna Volunteer Fire Dept.	$1530	Klawock Volunteer Fire Dept.	$5000
Bethel Volunteer Fire Dept.	$4843	Coffman Cove Volunteer Fire Dept.	$2500
City of Palmer Fire Dept.	$5000	Aniak Volunteer Fire Dept.	$5000
City of Houston Fire Dept.	$5000	McGrath Volunteer Fire Dept.	$3000
Chugach Volunteer Fire & Rescue	$5000	Unalaska Dept. of Public Safety	$5000
Big Lake Volunteer Fire Dept.	$5000	City of Aleknagik Fire & Rescue Dept.	$5000
Meadow Lakes Volunteer Fire Dept.	$5000	**Total**	**$162,140**

T 97 at Division of Forestry retardant site.

Aviation Fleet Review

During the 2001 fire season the Division of Forestry improved the initial attack helicopter program and the PC-7 aerial supervision modules by changing the contracted aircraft fleet. Evergreen Helicopters of Alaska was awarded 90-day contracts to provide Bell 212/205 helicopters for the Fairbanks, Delta, McGrath, and Mat-Su Initial Attack Bases.

The state-operated PC-7 aircraft on contract from Alaska Crane Service flew over 200 hours on fire assignments in the Lower 48 states. Lower 48 operations and federal reimbursable funds generated in Alaska returned more than $275,000 to the state.

In addition to the contracted aircraft and Federal Excess Property Program aircraft, the division has an on-call agreement with commercial operators throughout the state. This agreement allows DOF to immediately hire aircraft at a predetermined price for emergency operations. Over 97 percent of all division aircraft operations in 2001 were conducted by private sector aircraft, and most of those from Alaskan companies. The remaining three percent of operations were conducted in FEPP aircraft. The division does not own aircraft and remains committed to working with the private sector to provide aircraft to meet fire suppression needs.

Contracted Aircraft Used by the State During 2001 Fire Season

Aircraft Type	Vendor	Contract Base	Mission
Bell 205- Helicopter	Evergreen Helicopters	Delta Helitack Base	Initial Attack-Helitack
Bell 212- Helicopter	Evergreen Helicopters	McGrath Helitack Base	Initial Attack-Helitack
Bell 212- Helicopter	Evergreen Helicopters	Fairbanks Helitack Base	Initial Attack-Helitack
Bell 212- Helicopter	Evergreen Helicopters	Mat-Su Helitack Base	Initial Attack-Helitack
AS350B2- Helicopter	ERA Aviation	Soldotna Helitack Base	Initial Attack-Helitack
Bell JRL1-Helicopter	Tundra Helicopters	Tok Helitack Base	Initial Attack-Helitack
PC-7 Airplane	Alaska Crane Service	Palmer Tanker Base	Initial Attack- ASM
PC-7 Airplane	Alaska Crane Service	Fairbanks Tanker Base	Initial Attack- ASM
KC97 Air Tanker	Hawkins and Powers	Fairbanks Tanker Base	I.A. Retardant Tanker
DC-7 Air Tanker	International Air Response	Palmer Tanker Base	I.A. Retardant Tanker
Shrike- Airplane	Ram Air	Fairbanks Tanker Base	Air Attack / Fire Detection
Shrike- Airplane	Ponderosa	McGrath Tanker Base	Air Attack / Fire Detection

Federal Excess Property Program

Aircraft Type	Aircraft Owner	Contract Base	Mission
DHC-2 Beaver	USDA- Forest Service	Palmer Tanker Base	Fire Support
DHC-2 Beaver	USDA- Forest Service	Fairbanks Tanker Base	Fire Support

State Fire Warehouse

The State Fire Warehouse system operates out of facilities in Fairbanks and Palmer. With an inventory valued at over $7 million, the warehouse provides support for initial attack in the wildland/urban interface areas protected by the Division of Forestry. The system also supports local government and federal cooperators in Alaska, the Lower 48, and Canada. One area of cooperation is publication of the Alaska Interagency Catalog of Fire Supplies and Equipment. This easy-to-use document provides firefighters access to all the fire stores of both state and federal agencies.

The warehouse system is often called on to aid non-fire emergencies such as search and rescue, flood control, and avalanche damage.

The role of the State Fire Warehouse continues to grow, aided by a state-of-the-art computer program and a skilled and efficient staff.

2001 Highlights

- The warehouse system provided wildland firefighting supplies and equipment, valued at $450,000, to 39 local government cooperators. These structure fire departments are often first responders to wildland/urban interface fires.
- The system supported four project fires simultaneously in late June and early July. Support to the Type I Kenai Lake Fire, and three Type II fires – Mystery Hills in Kenai, Fish Creek in Fairbanks, and Red Fox in Tok, exceeded $2 million.
- Four of the new mobile support cache vans were deployed to project fires. In addition, the warehouse built two other cache vans, one each at Fairbanks and Palmer, to have on standby for fire support. Each cache van contains approximately $160,000 worth of supplies and equipment.
- In July and August, the warehouse shipped $2.8 million worth of supplies and equipment to support firefighting in the Northwest. Included in these orders were 7,000 pair of jeans, 2,500 fire shirts, 92 pumps, 172 chainsaws, 125 cargo nets, and 52 radios. By November all supplies and equipment was back in Alaska and ready for the next fire season.

Federal Excess Personal Property

The Federal Excess Personal Property Program provides equipment and supplies for wildland fire fighting in Alaska. The Division of Forestry has acquired $6.2 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 2001, the division acquired 103 items worth approximately $737,666.

Significant among these items are: one Hummer, three 10,000-gallon tank cars, seven 4x4 Chevrolet one-ton diesel pickup trucks, two one-ton 1991 Ford F- 350 trucks, two stake trucks with lift gates, one van, two fork lifts, two sweepers, one GMC 3500 truck, nine diesel generator sets, one hoist, one maintenance platform, and three lawn mowers.

The division's shop in Eagle River converted this former military pickup truck (top photo) into a brush engine. The truck has a new volt system, heater, tires, siren, emergency lights and new paint. It carries a water pump, foam unit, hose reel and a 240-gallon water tank. (Scott Christy)

Fire Program Training

The division provides training to maintain a safe and qualified workforce that meets national standards. All interagency courses were open to the structure fire departments, emergency firefighters, and Canadian agencies that cooperate with the state.

National Level Training

National level training helped the division meet the need for qualified, advanced level personnel to serve on Alaska's incident management teams, fill logistics and plans positions, stay current on lead plane pilot and Air Service Manager aviation requirements, participate in National Prevention Team training, fire leadership, and prescribed fire. Division of Forestry employees attended the following courses:

S-520 Advanced Incident Management
S-420 Command and General Staff Exercise
S-470 Air Operations Branch Director
Interagency Aviation Management and Safety
Lead Plane Pilot and Air Service Manager Training
S-445 Training Specialist
S-300 Extended Attack IC-Instructor Training
S-258 Incident Communications Technician
S-354 Facilities Unit Leader
S-357 Food Unit Leader
Prescribed Fire Training Center
Prevention Education
Fire Management Leadership
National Aerial Firefighter Academy
National Logistics and Cache Managers Workshops
National Forest Fire Danger Rating System

The division made advances in training personnel to fill incident management team positions at the Type I and Type II levels. Personnel attended S-420 and S-520 in the positions of plans, logistics, safety, and information. The division qualified personnel as Air Operations Branch Director, Food Unit Leader, and Training Specialist. Personnel attended the National Prescribed Fire Training Center to gain more practical experience in prescribed fire management. Aviation personnel attended Lead Plane Pilot, Air Service Manager, and the Aerial Firefighting Academy to stay abreast of current national standards. Prevention personnel attended national prevention team training and prevention education conferences

Instate Training

Annual refresher training was offered in Fireline Safety, Aerial Ignition Devices, First Aid, Bloodborne Pathogens, Hazardous Materials for First Responders, and Warehouse and Helicopter Managers. Entry-level training in dispatch, plans, logistics, finance, and information helped certify personnel in these areas and provide additional overhead resources to assist with incident management. The division continued to provide training to cooperator fire departments and offered training in the new Incident Qualification System program to DOF personnel and interagency cooperators. The Alaska Crew Boss course helped fill vacancies on the Type II Emergency Firefighter Crews. Several 300 level unit leader courses were offered including Task Force/Strike Team Leader, Division Group Supervisor, Fire Behavior, Helibase Manager, and Fire Suppression Tactics.

Alaska Crew Boss Training

The Alaska Crew Boss training course is given every other year to Type II emergency firefighter crews. This 11-day session, conducted in 2001, provided crew bosses for Type II crews statewide. Crew bosses from crews administered by DOF in Fairbanks, Sleetmute, Lower Kalskag, Scammon Bay, Hooper Bay, Nondalton, Delta, Palmer, and Tok attended the training.

Alaska crew boss training at Fort Wainwright. (Jim Kimball)

Fire Department Training

By partnering with the Anchorage Fire Department, the division was able to provide training in Basic Firefighter and Fireline Safety courses and certify 143 Anchorage structural firefighters as basic wildland firefighters. An additional 47 fire department personnel statewide were certified in fire overhead positions. Many other fire department personnel were certified as Basic Firefighters.

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 evening and weekend courses to make the training convenient for volunteer firefighters.

The division conducted an aggressive wildland fire training program in 2001 to meet the training needs of structure fire department cooperators. The response was outstanding and many fire personnel throughout the state were trained in: Fire Behavior, Fire Behavior Calculations, Logistics and Plans, entry level training, finance positions, Methods of Instruction, Fire Suppression Tactics, Incident Command System, Division Group Supervisor, Interagency Helicopter Training, Canadian Forest Service Danger Rating System, Fireline Safety, Incident Qualificaiton System, and Basic Firefighter.

A total of 589 fire department personnel attended 59 courses for a total of 722 classroom hours.

Training in 2001

Type of Course	Courses	Participants	Hours
Incident Command System	6	85	104
Basic Firefighter	20	477	379
Alaska Crew Boss	1	12	88
Fire Management	25	179	736
Dispatch	2	26	48
Suppression Skills	39	377	929
Prevention	2	3	80
Prescribed Fire	2	2	240
First Aid/CPR/BBP	14	170	144
Fire Line Safety	63	1,395	240
Hazardous Materials:			
Warehouse	1	21	24
First Responders	6	80	27
Other	8	75	37
Totals	**187**	**2,901**	**3,081**

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.

Lower 48 Training (included in chart above)

Type of Course	Courses	Participants	Hours
Fire Management	11	24	408
Suppression Skills	7	9	272
Prevention	2	3	80
Prescribed Fire	2	2	240
Totals	**22**	**38**	**1,000**

Interagency Fire Training Courses

Incident Command System
Natural Resource Law Enforcement
Aerial Firing
Alaska Crew Boss
Warehouse Hazardous Materials
Status Plats
Incident Qualification System
Hazardous Materials First Responders
Fueling
Methods of Instruction
Engine Operations
Pump Maintenance
Single Resource Boss/Crew
Intermediate Fire Behavior
Division Group Supervisor
Plans Entry Level Training
Fire Suppression Tactics
Basic Firefigher
Interagency Helicopter Training
Helicopter Manager Workshop
Aerial Mapping
Thermal Imaging
Forklift Training
Field Observer
Fire Behavior Calculations
Logistics Entry-level Training
Dispatching
CFFDRS
Fire Operations in the Interface
Fire Business Management
Incident Cost Accounting
Pumps/Water Delivery
Fireline Safety

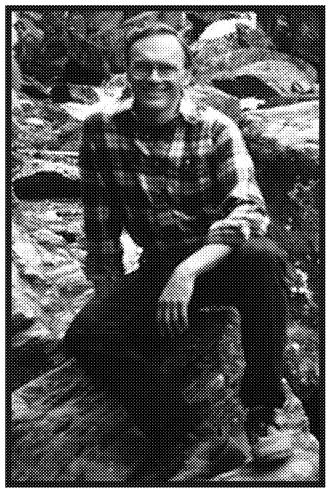
Employee Recognition

25 Years of State Service

Steve Clautice

Steve joined the Division of Lands in 1976 as a Forester II in Fairbanks. At the time Forestry consisted of Steve, Les Fortune, and Jim Couckuyt. Steve graduated from Penn State in 1970 with a bachelor's degree in forestry. In 1973 he received his master's degree in forest ecology from the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Prior to DNR, Steve worked three years for a private contractor for the Alaska Pipeline Office as an environmental compliance officer working out of Anchorage.

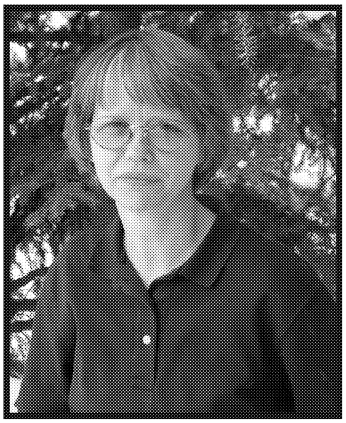
Steve has seen the creation of a Division of Forestry as a separate division and has worked with each of its directors. His greatest legacy is his involvement in the creation of the Tanana Valley State Forest in 1983. He made several trips to Juneau and testified at Resource Committee hearings, identified lands for inclusion in the forest, and prepared legal descriptions. He supervised Pete Crimp, who was the lead planner, and participated fully in the creation of the first TVSF Plan. The Tanana Basin Area Plan was completed by Lands during the same period, so establishing a similar planning process for the forest was a natural extension.



While Steve's career has been primarily forest resource management, he has been on fire assignments over the years, primarily in fire behavior and restoration positions. Steve says he hopes we can still meet our potential for more intensive forest management with adequate depth to do the job and an industry to support. Steve is currently a Forester III in the Northern Region Office in Fairbanks. He is an avid cross country skier and cyclist.

Sue Whitney

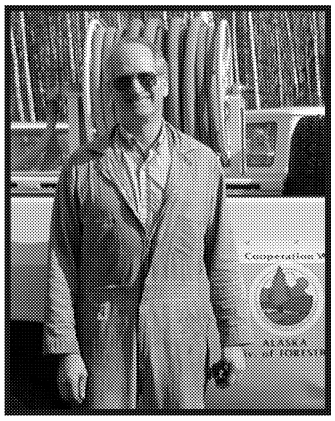
Sue started work with DNR's Division of Mining in 1969. In 1974 she left state employment to attend to family business and returned in 1981 to the State Troopers. She spent two years there writing oversize weight permits and met many forest loggers in the process.



Sue transferred with the job to the Department of Commerce and branched out into banking loans and investments for lowering energy needs in housing. From there she spent nine months supporting staff in Fish & Game. In 1985 she joined Forestry, working for Don Fuller who had just become Fairbanks Area Forester.

Since Sue joined Forestry, the miles of forest roads have doubled and recreational use has more than doubled. Sue has presided over an office that has gone from hand compass and chain to computerized (GPS) mapping and measuring of the harvest units. Sue is red-carded as equipment and personnel time recorder and goes on several fire assignments annually. Sue takes Forestry personally. She has lived in Alaska her entire life and has a love of the woods and wildlife. She hunts moose in the Tanana Valley State Forest each fall and is often successful. Sue is a skilled skin-sewer and has made and sold countless fur garments. She buys her raw fur from local trappers and has them tanned. Some Fairbanks field foresters wear her hats and she is known statewide for her skill in making teddy bears from beaver skins. She always donates a bear to the local chapter of the Ruffed Grouse Society and some have

Dave Dehart



Dave Dehart began his employment with DNR as a Maintenance Worker at the Eagle River Shop in 1977. In 1980 he was promoted to Shop Manager, and has continued to serve in this position. Through the past 25 years, Dave has been instrumental in the smooth and efficient operation of the Eagle River Shop. His abilities as a mechanic and as a manager have made the facility into a productive and efficient unit in the division. Dave also played a key role in developing the division's Federal Excess Property Program, which provides thousand of dollars of equipment to the division each year. Dave also has been instrumental in developing a program that converts used FEPP vehicles into fire engines and support vehicles for volunteer fire departments throughout the state. This allows villages and small towns to secure fire fighting equipment cheaply, allowing them to use limited resources to purchase equipment not otherwise available. Dave was also a critical participant in constructing and operating the warehouse when it was located in Eagle River.

20 Years of State Service

Bill Beebe

Bill began working for DNR in 1981 after nine years with the Arkansas Forestry Commission. His first position was the Mat-Su Area Manager in the Division of Forest, Land, and Water Management, which later became the Anchorage/Mat-Su Area Forester for the Division of Forestry. He represented the division in the creation of the Susitna Area Plan, the Willow Sub-Basin Plan, the Hatcher Pass Management Plan, and the Recreation Rivers Plan. In 1989 he accepted the Resource Management Staff Forester position in the Central Office coordinating Forest Land Use Plans between the three regions. Bill was the Southwest Area Forester in McGrath from 1990 to 1998. In addition to the area office, he managed numerous project fires, including the 600,000-acre Inowak Fire in 1996. In 1999 his position was transferred to Big Lake and he took over management of the combined Mat-Su and Southwest areas. Bill is currently the Coastal Region Fire Management Officer in Palmer. He manages the Coastal Region Fire program and has developed state evacuation guidelines. Bill's experience in a range of positions makes him a valuable employee of the division.

Bill may still have an Arkansas accent, but after 22 years in Alaska, he has hunting, snow machining, and river boat stories to match any. He has a third degree black belt in Judo and an active interest in teaching the art to young people. Of the many and varied things Bill has done, he noted the good work that produced the Susitna Area Plan and the construction of the cabin at Devil's Elbow south of McGrath at a time when they had two million-foot and one 300,000-foot timber sales.

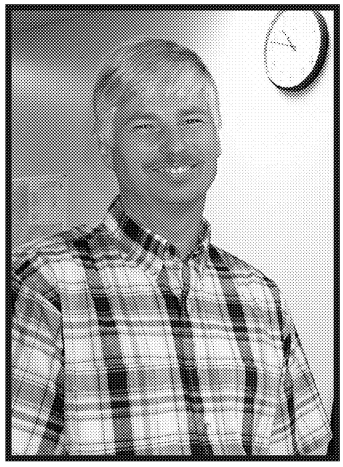
Dean Brown

Dean Brown has been Deputy State Forester and twice Acting State Forester since 1990. She began work as a temporary employee for DNR in Minerals and Energy Management in 1978 as a Geologist in Oil and Gas. She went on to work as a Geologist in Mining, a hydrogeologist in Water, as the District Water Officer and then District Lands Officer for the Southcentral Region, Chief of Water Management statewide, and Deputy and Acting Director of Agriculture for six years until being laid off in 1987.

Dean rejoined state service in 1989 as a non-perm NRM I for Mining, Land and Water Management, subsequently becoming Northern Regional Manager for Lands in Fairbanks. In 1990 Dean became Forestry's Deputy Director of Operations, working with Deputy Director George Hollett. Dean participated in many of the milestones of DNR, including oil and gas development, land disposals, the Beirne initiative, navigability determinations, native claims and allotments, the sea lift from Prudhoe Bay, closing the Deadhorse Store (which got her mentioned in *USA Today*), the Delta Barley Projects, Point McKenzie, and Miller's Reach Fire.

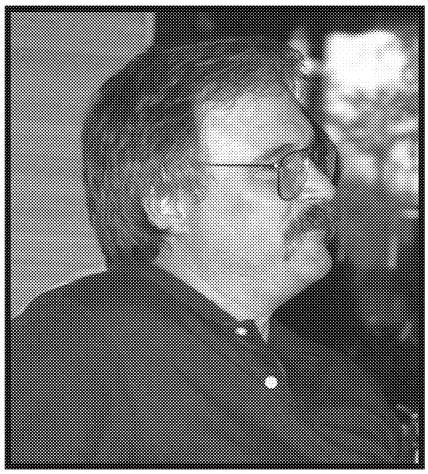
Dean's family came to Alaska during the 1901 gold rush and settled in Nome where she still owns the family home and gold mine. She has eclectic interests and is an artist, photographer, sometime pilot, horsewoman, carpenter, and bibliophile. Her recent trip to South Africa, Botswana and Zimbabwe has resulted in the "R" word (retirement) creeping into her vocabulary.

Al Edgren



Al began his career in natural resources management with the State of Minnesota in 1974. He soon moved west where in 1976 he worked for the U.S. Forest Service on the Boise National Forest and Bridger/Teton National Forest. In 1980 the call of the north led him to a position with the Bureau of Land Management in Alaska. Soon after arriving, he was enticed away from BLM by the exciting opportunities at the Division of Forestry and in 1981 he accepted a Training/Prevention Officer position for the former South Central Region. He held this position until he was selected as the Delta Area Forester in 1983. Al has worked in both the fire and resource management programs over the course of his twenty-year career with the division. In his role as Area Forester, Al has managed several Type II project fires and provided valuable insight to issues concerning the Tanana Valley State Forest and the Delta community. In addition to his official duties, Al is active in his community as a member of the Local Emergency Planning Committee, a youth hockey referee, assistant hockey coach, and in his spare time has been building a new home.

Marc Lee

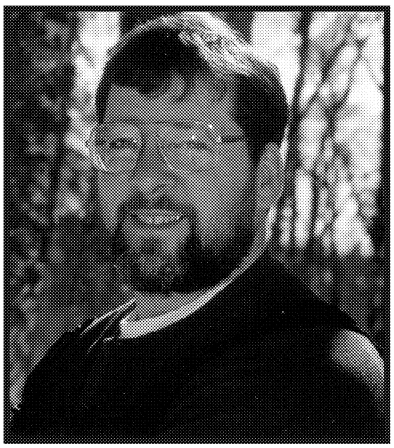


Marc began his career in natural resource management in Alaska with the U.S. Forest Service in 1975 when he worked out of the Craig and Ketchikan ranger districts. In 1981, he accepted a position with the Division of Forestry in Anchorage as the regional timber management forester. In 1985 he moved north to become the Fairbanks Area Office's resource management forester. Shortly before his move to Fairbanks, the Tanana Valley State Forest was designated and Marc was involved in various aspects of resource management in the new state forest. By 1999 he was ready for a change and was selected as the new Fairbanks Area Forester. This position has kept him busy. During each of his first two fire seasons in this position, the area has had a Type II project fire. Some of the more notable special projects in which Marc has been involved are ruffed grouse habitat improvement, Tanana River dynamics research, and NASA funding for fire management applications. Marc has also been active in community activities and currently serves as an assistant scout master. In his spare time, he is building a log home near town.

Ric Plate

Ric Plate began work for DNR in 1977 as an engine crewman at Nancy Lake. During the 1981-82 fire seasons, he was helitack foreman at the Campbell Airstrip in Anchorage. In 1983, he accepted a dispatcher position in Southcentral Logistics. In January 1984, he helped open the new dispatch office in Tok and then became logistics coordinator for the Northern Regional Office in Fairbanks. Ric worked as operations forester for the Kenai-Kodiak Area from 1990 until January 2001, when he became the Kenai-Kodiak Area Fire Management Officer.

Ric has contributed to the division in many ways. As a Helitack Foreman, he wrote the policy and procedures for the helitack program, one of the first steps in developing the aviations guidelines. While working for northern regional logistics, Ric assisted in the transition to the incident command system and helped develop the cooperating procedures between DOF, Alaska Fire Service, and Alaska Interagency Coordination Center. In Soldotna, Ric refined the five-year schedule of timber sales and contracts and helped the timber sale program address the spruce beetle infestation. As the FMO, Ric is now using his talents to address the fire management issues created by the spruce beetle infestation.

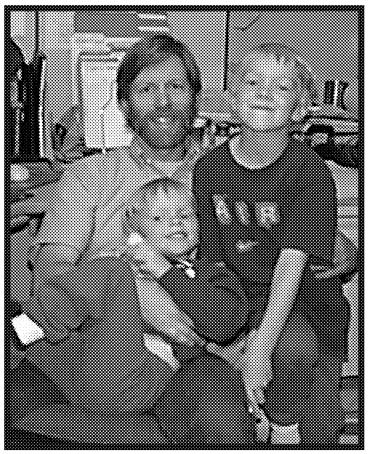


During his early years with DNR, Ric pursued his education during the off-season and in 1980 earned his associate in applied science degree in forest technology from Michigan Technological University. In 1990, Ric received DNR's Distinguished Employee of the Year Award for coordinating installation of the telephone system and mainframe computer terminals into the Fairbanks office.

Jim Lewandoski Retires

Jim Lewandoski retired in June after 20 years of service in the Division of Forestry. Jim graduated from the University of Minnesota's College of Forestry in 1976 and worked as a student forester for Minnesota's DNR before moving to Alaska in 1976. Jim began his forestry career with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on the Kenai National Moose Range. Retired Regional Forester Les Fortune hired Jim in 1981 as the Regional Fire Management Officer for the Northern Region.

Jim was a principle contributor to the cooperative agreements with the structure fire departments and the Alaska Fire Service. He organized many aspects of the state's fire business management, including conditions of hire, inputs for the Fire Business Management Handbook, equipment rental documents, and procedures for the shop and warehouse operations. Jim wrote many of the maintenance CIPs for the Northern Region and served on the Equipment Committee and the Fire and Aviation Working Group. He provided oversight for the Rural Community Fire Protection program, supervised FEMA reporting of the Tok River Fire (1990) and was Operations Section Chief for Koyu-kuk River Flood response (1994).



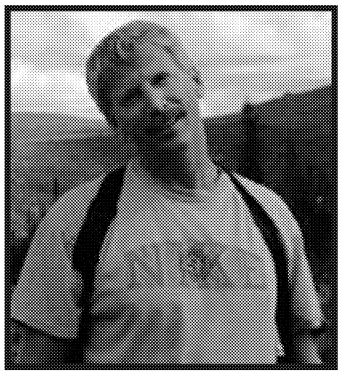
Jim and his wife, Barb, have two children, Dawson, six, and Casey, four. Jim is now serving as a reading tutor for the local school district, coaching youth sports, and tearing up the ice in the adult hockey league. He recently was recognized for donating over five gallons at the local blood bank through the years. When it came to giving blood at the office, Jim took it literally.

15 Years of State Service

Roger Burnside

Roger joined the Division of Forestry after an already extensive career with the state. He started with the state as a reading and math tutor in Tyonek in 1980. He moved to the Contract Administration Section in Anchorage in 1981. At that time forestry was still part of the Division of Forest, Land, and Water Management and Ted Smith was director. When the divisions split, he continued with the Division of Land and Water Management, working on various special projects with Land Title, State Selections, the CIRI Land Exchange, Native Allotments, and Contracts and Leases. Fortunately for the division, Roger joined Forestry in December 1991, in the second year of the division's Cooperative Forest Pest Action program with the USDA Forest Service. He has been here ever since, administering the state's cooperative forest health protection program on state and non-federal lands. Roger enjoys using his degree in entomology and plant pathology as DOF's Insect and Disease Forester, aka the State's Forest Entomologist. He has been in the thick of efforts to track the spruce bark beetle epidemic and to test chemical means of protecting susceptible trees. He also serves on the division's computer committee, and has been responsible for expanding application of GIS to forest health mapping in Alaska.

Dave Hendren

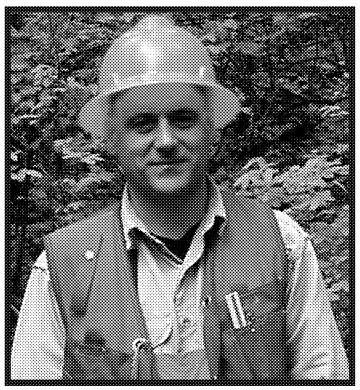


Dave Hendren began his career with the U.S. Forest Service in California. In 1978 he moved to Alaska where he worked for the Bureau of Land Management until 1983. Dave joined the Division of Forestry in 1984 as the lead dispatcher for the Tok Area office. He moved to Fairbanks in 1989 and accepted the State Logistics Coordinator position at the Alaska Interagency Coordination Center. Largely due to Dave's efforts and personal credibility, the state role in interagency fire logistics and dispatching has made significant strides. Recently Dave represented Forestry in a variety of capacities, including working in the Great Basin Coordination Center, lead for the ROSS data administration in Alaska and representative to the national group, and a D-510 Coach. Dave functions as Acting AICC Center Manager about a third of the time and has been Acting Fire Operations Forester. The division relies on him for fire statistics and often calls on him for legislative information.

Dave has a reputation for being decisive, straightforward, and fair. In 2001 he received the National Award for Excellence in Dispatching presented by the National Interagency Coordination Center.

Jim Eleazer

Jim Eleazer brought more than ten years experience as an Area Forester to the position of Coastal Regional Forester. He managed the Anchorage, Mat-Su, and Prince William Sound Area for six years from Big Lake where he gained valuable experience in fire management. He spent four years as Juneau Area Forester where he managed forests from the entrance to Prince William Sound to Wrangell Island, an area with substantial forest practices and timber harvest activities. From 1973 to 1978 Jim had seasonal technician jobs that included work in a state park, Youth Conservation Corps crew project leader, federal wilderness trail maintenance, forest road construction, forest resources inventory, timber harvest cruising, and forest road surveying. Jim has an excellent background in forest practices,

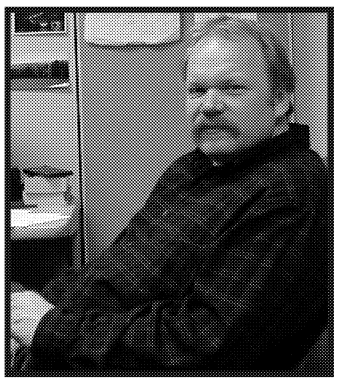


where his personal integrity and experience have proven invaluable. Jim has built a good team in the two years he has been Regional Forester, emphasizing management training and a team approach toward goals.

Jim is an avid skier and prior to joining Forestry spent nine years as Assistant Director of the Alyeska Resort Ski School and nearly two years as co-owner of the Chair 5 Restaurant in Girdwood.

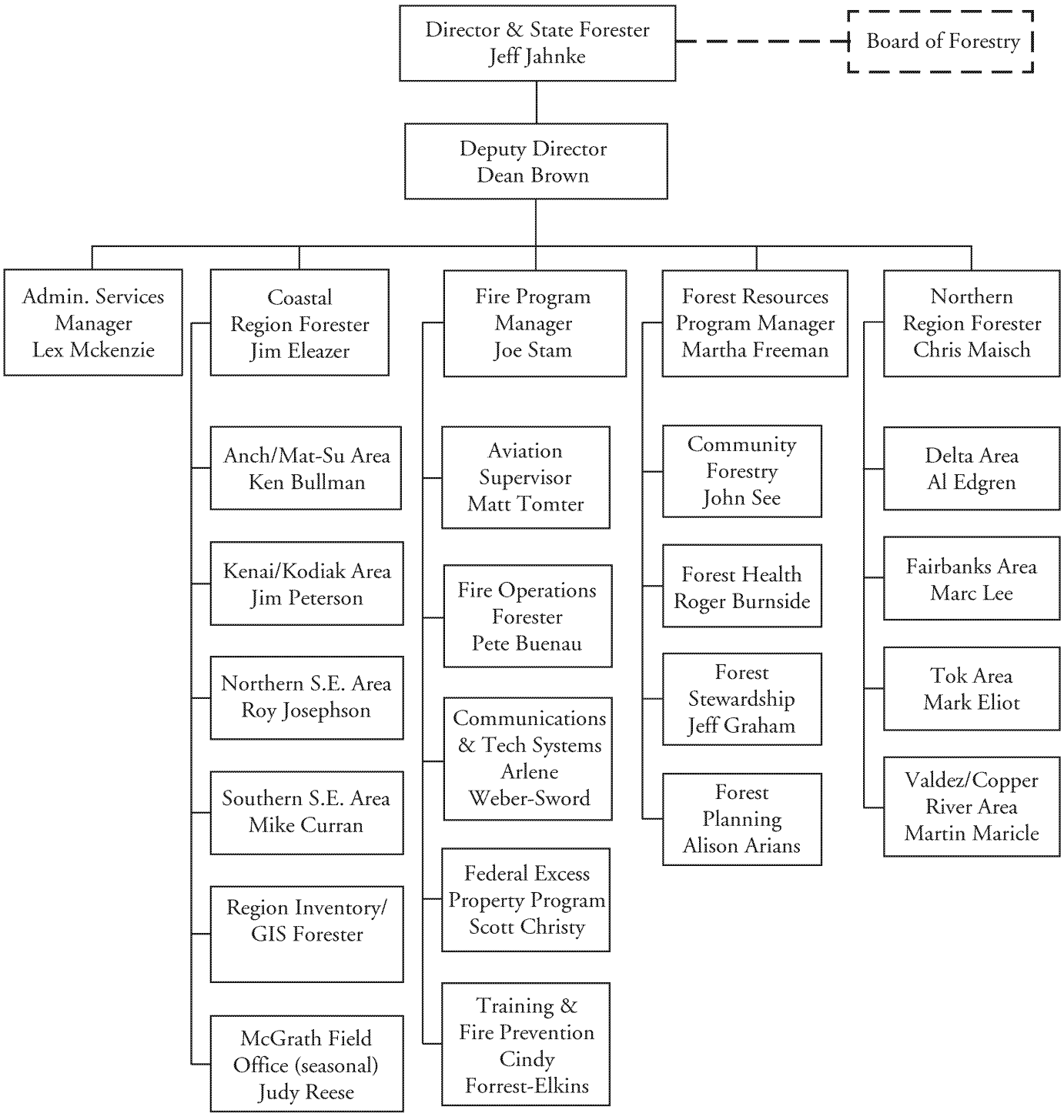
Gordon Worum

Gordon Worum joined the Division of Forestry in 1985 as a Forest Technician II in the Fairbanks Area, at first, working as an initial attack firefighter. He soon moved into the fire prevention program and then into the timber management program where he became a Forest Technician III. He moved to the Northern Region Office in Fairbanks in 1987 to work in forest inventory as a Forest Technician IV. In 1989, when the division decided to build a GIS program, Gordon was chosen for the job and literally built the system the Northern Region has today. He has won several awards for his participation in innovative GIS projects. The Alaska Chapter of the Society of American Foresters honored him in 2001 as Forester of the Year. He was recently promoted to Cartographer IV. Gordon graduated from Oregon State University with a bachelor's degree in forest management in 1980. Once or twice a year, Gordon and his family travel to northeastern Pennsylvania to do timber stand improvement work on 140 acres of maple, ash, and cherry forestland they own.



Organization Chart

December 2001



Citizen Advisory Groups

December 2001

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

Tricia Wurtz, Chair, forest science
Jerry Gustafson, forest industry
Brad Cox, value-added processing
Chris Stark, environmental interests
Susan Bishop, private forest user
Jim Ostlind, recreation
Tom DeLong, tourism industry
Audrey Magoun, fish and wildlife interests
Shelly Basketfield, mining industry
Gabe Sam, Native community
Mark Ullom, Upper Tanana Valley
Lawrence Smith, Lower Tanana Valley

Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee

Ole Andersson, landowner, Soldotna
Steve Bush, USDA Forest Service, Anchorage
Steve Glos, landowner, Wasilla
Jeff Graham, Alaska Division of Forestry, Palmer
Doug Hanson, Tanana Chiefs Conference, Fairbanks
Max Huhndorf, Gana-A' Yoo, Ltd., Galena
Jimmy LaVoie, USDA Farm Service Agency, Palmer
George Matz, The Audubon Society, Anchorage
Mitch Michaud, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Kenai
John Mohorcich, Kenai Peninsula Borough, Soldotna
Charlie Nash, forest industry rep., Big Lake
Erica Reith, USDI Bureau of Indian Affairs, Juneau
Bob Wheeler, Cooperative Extension Service, Fairbanks
Dick Zobel, Natural Resource Conservation & Development Board, Wasilla

Alaska Community Forest Council

John Alden, member-at-large, Fairbanks
Dave Wolfe, member-at-large, Anchorage
Dan Ketchum, arborist, Juneau
Michael Post, member-at-large, Anchorage
Sue Lincoln, Cooperative Extension Svc., Anchorage
Ann Lawton, horticulture, Eagle River
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

Fiscal Year 2001 Actuals

Funding Sources	Forest Mgmt. & Development	Fire Suppression	EFF Non-Emergency	Total
General Funds	$6,957.3	$14,259.6	—	$21,216.9
Federal Funds	867.3	10,072.1	—	10,939.4
Capital Improvement Receipts	105.2	—	203.5	308.7
Interagency Receipts	2,058.3	6.7	—	2,065.0
General Fund/State Designated Receipts	31.5	3.9	—	35.4
Other	45.7	7.9	—	53.6
Totals	**$10,065.3**	**$24,350.2**	**203.5**	**$34,619.0**
Positions				
Permanent Full-Time	60	8	—	68
Permanent Part-Time	117	33	—	150
Non-Permanent	12	—	—	12
Total Positions	**189**	**41**	**0**	**230**

Forest Management & Development Component

Renewable Resource Development & Sales	Coastal Region	Northern Region	Statewide	Total
Board of Forestry	—	—	13.4	13.4
Forest Practices	334.3	—	65.6	399.9
Forest Stewardship	233.2	481.5	87.4	802.1
Reforestation	58.3	184.5	—	242.8
State Timber Sales	314.8	485.9	99.8	900.5
Unbudgeted RSAs	—	—	2,058.3	2,058.3
Capital Improvement Receipts	—	—	105.2	105.2
General Fund/Program Receipts	—	—	13.7	13.7
Subtotals	**$940.6**	**$1,151.9**	**$2,443.4**	**$4,535.9**
Wildland Fire Protection Services				
Anchorage School District Interns	38.5	—	—	38.5
Preparedness	1,535.8	2,307.3	450.2	4,293.3
Subtotals	**$1,574.3**	**$2,307.3**	**$450.2**	**$4,331.8**
Forest Administration				
Federal Cooperative Forestry Assistance	—	—	867.3	867.3
Director's Office		—	330.3	330.3
Subtotals		—	**$1,197.6**	**$1,197.6**
TOTALS	**$2,514.9**	**$3,459.2**	**$4,091.2**	**$10,065.3**

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

Fiscal Year 2002 Budget

Funding Sources	Forest Mgmt. & Development	Fire Suppression	EFF Non-Emergency	Total
General Funds	$7,020.1	$3,195.9	—	$10,216.0
Federal Funds	1,161.9	5,321.0	—	6,482.9
Capital Improvement Receipts	288.1	—	250.0	538.1
Interagency Receipts	155.6	—	—	155.6
General Fund/State Designated Receipts	30.0	—	—	30.0
Timber Receipts	280.0	—	—	280.0
Totals	**$8,935.7**	**$8,516.9**	**250.0**	**$17,702.6**
Positions				
Permanent Full-Time	60	8	—	68
Permanent Part-Time	117	33	—	150
Non-Permanent	12	—	—	12
Total Positions	**189**	**41**	**0**	**230**

Forest Management & Development Component

Renewable Resource Development & Sales	Coastal Region	Northern Region	Statewide	Totals
Board of Forestry	—	—	9.1	9.1
Forest Practices	382.2	—	51.9	434.1
Forest Stewardship	173.9	483.9	111.4	769.2
Reforestation	64.5	181.5	—	246.0
State Timber Sales	419.7	615.4	120.8	1,155.9
Capital Improvement Receipts	—	—	40.0	40.0
General Fund/Program Receipts	—	—	30.0	30.0
Subtotals	**$1,040.3**	**$1,280.8**	**$363.2**	**$2,684.3**
Wildland Fire Protection Services				
Anchorage School District Interns	39.8	—	—	39.8
Preparedness	2,107.2	1,749.7	814.5	4,671.4
Subtotals	**$2,147.0**	**$1,749.7**	**$814.5**	**$4,711.2**
Forest Administration				
Federal Cooperative Forestry Assistance	—	—	1,161.9	1,161.9
Director's Office	—	—	378.3	378.3
Subtotals	—	—	**$1,540.2**	**$1,540.2**
TOTALS	$3,187.3	**$3,030.5**	**$2,717.9**	**$8,935.7**

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

Division of Forestry Directory

March 2002

State Forester

State Forester's Office
550 W. Seventh Ave., Suite 1450
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3566
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

Fire Program Manager
Joe Stam, 269-8467

Forest Resources Program Mgr.
Martha Freeman, 269-8473

Forest Planning
Alison Arians, 269-8450

Community Forestry Program
John See, 269-8466

Conservation Education
Matt Weaver, 269-8481

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

Forest Stewardship Program
(Landowner Assistance)
101 Airport Road
Palmer, Alaska 99645
Jeff Graham, 761-6309

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

Logistics: 356-5645
Intelligence: 356-5643
Air Attack: 356-1375
Training, Anchorage: 269-8441

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

Aviation Program
101 Airport Rd.
Palmer, Alaska 99645
761-6271
Matt Tomter, Aviation Mgr.

Northern Region

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

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

Fire line: 451-2626

Northern Fire Management Office
451-2675 fax: 451-2690
Tom Kurth, Fire Mgmt. Officer

Reception: 451-2660
Logistics: 451-2680
Fire Management: 451-2675
Aviation Mgmt.: 451-2676

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

Tok Area Office
Box 10 (Mile 123 Glenn Hwy.)
Tok, Alaska 99780
883-5134 fax: 883-5135
Mark Eliot, Area Forester

Fire line: 883-5657

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

Coastal Region

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

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

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

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

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

Reception: 761-6200
Logistics: 761-6218
Aviation Mgmt.: 761-6229

Kenai-Kodiak Area Office
42499 Sterling Highway
Soldotna, Alaska 99669
(Mi. 92.5 Sterling Hwy.)
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
524-3011 fax: 524-3932
Judy Reese, Fire Mgmt. Officer

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

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

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