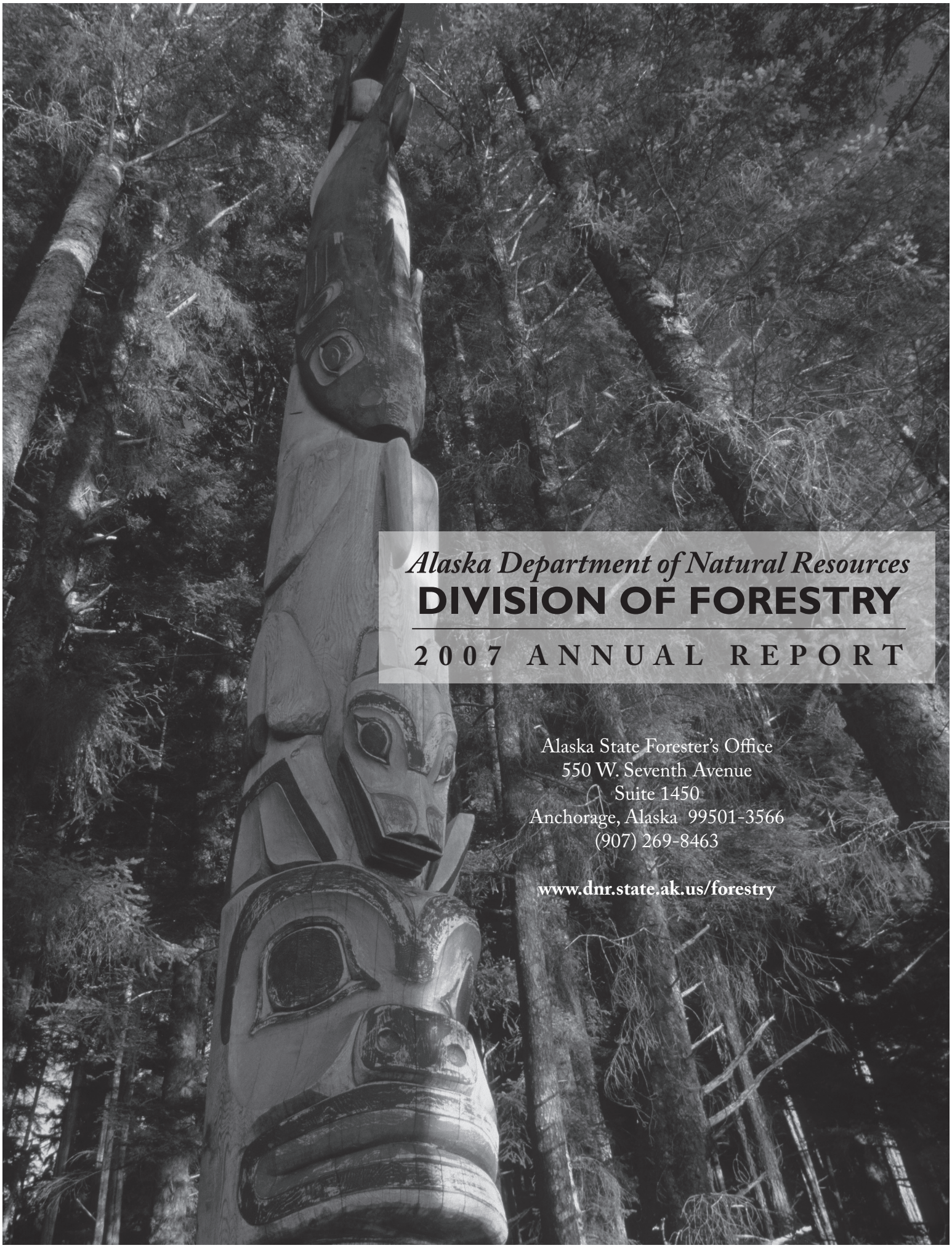

Alaska Department of Natural Resources

DIVISION OF FORESTRY

2007 ANNUAL REPORT

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

www.dnr.state.ak.us/forestry

ALASKA DIVISION OF FORESTRY

The Alaska Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry:

- Manages a wildland fire program on public, private and municipal land;
- Encourages development of the timber industry and forest products markets;
- Conducts timber sales for commercial use, personal use and fuelwood;
- Protects water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, and other forest values through appropriate forest practices and administration of Forest Resources and Practices Act;
- Manages the Haines and Tanana Valley state forests, which cover a total of 2.6 million acres;
- Administer Community Forestry, Conservation Education, Forest Health and Forest Stewardship programs;
- Gives technical assistance to owners and managers of forested land.

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 2007, the Division had 72 permanent full-time, 188 permanent part-time and seasonal and 12 non-permanent employees.

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This publication was released by the Alaska Department of Natural Resources to provide information about the operations of the Division of Forestry during 2007. 750 copies of this report were printed in Anchorage, Alaska at a cost of $4.86 per copy.

The 2007 Annual Report was produced by the Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry.

Description: Totem pole in the forest @ Sitka National Historic Park Southeast Alaska Summer Inside Passage

SARAH PALIN
GOVERNOR
GOVERNOR@GOV.STATE.AK.US

P.O. BOX 110001
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811-0001
(907) 465-3500
FAX (907) 465-3532
WWW.GOV.STATE.AK.US

STATE OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
JUNEAU

February 2008

Dear Alaskans,

We Alaskans take pride in our forests - this vast, renewable resource ecosystem that represents the values we all recognize and appreciate as our heritage. I welcome the opportunity to encourage each and every one of you to celebrate this heritage - for it represents an inheritance we have received and a legacy we will pass on to future generations.

Our forests change over time. This natural sequence provides different opportunities for forest management ranging from utilization of wood to balance depredation from insects and disease as forests age to changing habitat that can improve wildlife sustainability and wildland fire management. Each stage of change in our forests offers a unique and different aspect of the natural ecosystem transition. Forests provide scenic beauty, habitat for terrestrial and aquatic plant and animal species, clean air and water resources. They also influence climate, provide recreational, tourism and employment opportunities in our communities.

My administration's theme of fresh ideas has opened new possibilities in managing forests across the landscape. As part of a final management plan for the Tongass National Forest, I recently joined U.S. Forest Service Chief Abigail Kimbell in signing a "shared vision statement" to establish a plan for sustainability of the Tongass and Southeast Alaska's communities. This is a tremendous step toward having a sustainable, integrated timber industry. Speaking now with one voice, we remain committed to responsible development that protects the diversity and health of the forest's wildlife while sustaining jobs and subsistence for residents of Southeast Alaska.

This annual report demonstrates the diversity and variety of forest uses. The cooperation of landowners, with assistance from communities and volunteers, are reflected in activities ranging from timber utilization through urban and community forestry to the natural role of wildland fire in maintaining a diverse and vibrant landscape. We are working together for the future of our forests!

Your participation is highly valued and appreciated so that we will have the best information possible in making decisions for forest management. I am confident that we will work together to develop and sustain Alaska's forest resources for future generations.

Sincerely,

Sarah Palin
Governor

STATE FORESTER'S COMMENTS

As I sat down to write this year's forward for the annual report, it struck me that this is already the third time I've had this opportunity. The time has gone by faster then I imagined it would and now that I've turned fifty, I seem to be more conscious of time. Maybe it's the time of year or some other factor besides the passing of half a century, but I find myself reflecting on my career in forestry and the things I've been able to accomplish. It also causes me to focus on the things I've not been able to accomplish; the list is still long and I worry that I might run out of time.

The Division is just a bit past 25 years or about half my youthful age. In November of 1981 the Division split off from the Division of Lands and came into its own. While it's difficult to describe the Division in terms of a career, it's not so hard to imagine a legacy or a series of accomplishments as the Division has grown. The advantage an agency has over an individual is that it will continue on in time, its "career" is not limited and as individual employees we can contribute to the growing list of meaningful programs and services that the Division provides the public and private sectors… our customers. I also realized that some of the things on my list could be transferred to the Division's list. All I needed to do was prepare the ground and plant the seed. A project that I might not be able to see through to fruition can be carried on by others in our profession, but I have to admit that I'm still feeling a bit selfish and I want to pick and taste the fruit of our efforts!

Described in these agrarian terms, the Division had another bountiful year. In all program areas we are moving ahead with innovation and energy while maintaining our base programs. The forest management program set a new benchmark for the most timber sold, 60 million board feet. This is a significant amount of timber with a sale value over $1.3 million. Granted that 20 million feet of this volume is salvage timber on the Kenai and was sold at base rates, but much of this timber is nearing the end of the salvage window and its potential use as a feedstock for a proposed wood pellet mill was a welcome development.

In southeast, our efforts in providing both log volume and working with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) on the Tongass Land Management Plan (TLMP) are breaking new ground. The State's bridge timber initiative is continuing to provide vital log volume from state lands to three sawmills, while they await a return of a significant sale volume from federal lands. Under the Governor's office leadership, a multi-department "Tongass Team" was assembled and they have redoubled their efforts to work with the USFS and other interest organizations to craft a TLMP that can be successfully implemented.

The high cost of energy has more residents throughout the state looking for ways to reduce their fuel bills and many of them have turned to our personal use firewood program as an answer. Personal use permits were up significantly, especially in the Interior communities of the state. Two companies are exploring the potential for manufacturing wood pellets for use in residential pellet stoves or in commercial size boilers for larger public facilities, such as schools. The Division has been actively promoting wood fuels as a sustainable, clean and less expensive energy alternative that is "carbon neutral."

Several years ago, the Division teamed up with a number of partners in both the public and private sector and formed the Alaska Wood Energy Task Group to help identify, engineer and seek funding to move wood biomass projects forward in communities around the state. The Juneau Economic Development Council (JEDC) has been a key participant in this process and has been administering a USFS "Jumpstart" grant that was awarded to the Division and JEDC. This grant is assisting four communities: Haines, Tanana, Ionia and Gulkana, to address heating needs in public facilities in their communities. In late 2007, the village of Tanana installed two wood fueled Garn boilers to provide heat and domestic hot water to village buildings. The other projects are also making progress and I look forward to reporting results of these efforts in our 2008 report. In addition to these projects over 50 communities have had initial feasibility studies conducted in the past few years and as funds are identified, many of these projects will also move forward.

The Fire Management program is retooling and examining new expanded partnerships with the Alaska Fire Service and other cooperating agencies. Two project fires in the Coastal Region were successfully managed, but the Caribou Hills fire on the Kenai demonstrates the continued threat that wildland fire presents to our communities.

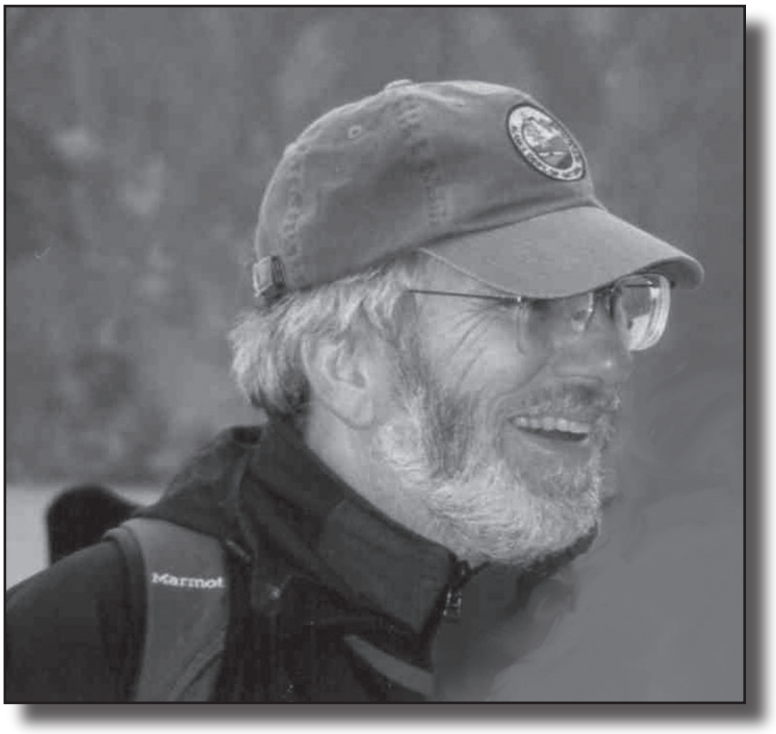
While our fire season was a relatively easy one compared to the past few years, the Division sent out a high volume of personnel and resources to assist lower 48 suppression agencies. Our village Type II emergency fire crews were dispatched 40 times and brought home a collective payroll of $7,385,664. These employment opportunities continue to play an important role in our rural economies and we are continuing to look for ways to improve the skills and opportunities for these crews.

As in past years, our interagency Alaska Type I Incident Management Team (IMT) was dispatched several times over the course of the fire season. Under the able leadership of Lynn Wilcock and his command and general staff, they were deployed to the

state of Montana where they preformed skillfully under difficult circumstances. The Missoulian ran a feature story on Lynn and the team and a picture of Lynn that was used with the story appears in a later section of this report. In addition to the Team, we also sent a task force of DOF fire engines to Montana. They were deployed for over a month and we rotated EFF and state wildland fire technicians as crew during the long fire season in the west.

The Cooperative Forestry programs are meeting new changes to the national program with pluck and the Community Forestry program was successful in competing for funding in this new and challenging environment. Mandated changes to how these programs have been funded for the past 30 years are being made by the Forest Service and formula driven programs are transitioning to competitive programs over the next 2-5 years. This creates a significant challenge for the Division and the need to look at other funding sources, including state dollars to maintain service levels.

The forest resources of our state can help reduce energy costs to communities, provide jobs and raw materials for milling and manufacturing, and serve as a vast area for recreational pursuits. As you read through the annual report, I think you will share my pride in what we have accomplished and I look forward to working with all of you in the year ahead. My list of unaccomplished goals is still a long one, but I'm confident we can all help me mark a few more off before my next 50 years are up.



Chris Maisch
Alaska State Forester

2007 AT A GLANCE

Resource Management

- Sold 60.97 million board feet of timber in 65 sales to 48 purchasers statewide, the largest volume sold in over 20 years. Sales included a record-high 23.8 million board feet sold in southern southeast to help support the timber industry beset by shortages of federal timber.

- Initiated work with the USFS to design and offer more timber in economically feasible timber sales from the Tongass National Forest. Following on initial success in FY07, DOF is expanding efforts in FY08.

- Conducted over 200 inspections on private, state, and other public timber operations, and conducted 12 training sessions for timber operators and agency staff. As a result of these preventative activities, no notifications of violations were necessary for the second year in a row.

- Provided technical forestry assistance to 174 agencies and organizations through the forest stewardship, community forestry, forest health, and natural resources education programs. The Division assisted municipalities, boroughs, cities, military bases, Native corporations, utility companies, private businesses, media outlets, fire departments, schools and colleges, and state and federal agencies.

- Adopted regulations to implement changes to the Forest Resources & Practices Act for southcentral Alaska, and establish best management practices for winter roads.

- Field-surveyed 153 miles of forest roads on five different ownerships in SE Alaska for compliance with forest practices BMPs and fish passage.

Fire Management

- In cooperation with federal agencies and local fire departments, the Division of Forestry provided fire management services on 150 million acres of federal, state, municipal and privately owned land.

- The Division administered Volunteer Fire Assistance Grants totaling $160,273.07, enabling 41 fire departments around the state to train firefighters and purchase tools, equipment and other firefighting supplies.

- The number of acres burned, 649,411, was well-below the most recent 10-year average of 1.7 million. In fact, the 2006 and 2007 seasons stand in stark contrast to the record setting years of 2004 and 2005, which, at 6.5 and 4.6 million, rank first and third respectively for total acres burned in Alaska wildfire history.

- In a bit of an anomaly, the total number of fires, 509, was slightly above the 10- year average of 476.

- The past two seasons notwithstanding, five of the largest fire seasons ever recorded in Alaska occurred in the last 10 years. Since 1997, over 1,700,464 acres have burned in the State of Alaska.

- The 256,734-acre Anaktuvak River fire on the North Slope accounted for nearly 40% of the statewide acreage total. Most of the burning occurred in September. The fire is the largest ever recorded on the North Slope.

- Legislation was passed in 2006, which changed the start date of the Alaska Fire Season from May 1st to April 1st.

- Two fires in 2007 required the mobilization of Type 2 Incident Management teams. The Caribou Hills fire, managed by an Alaskan team, threatened the community of Ninilchik as well as many homes, recreational cabins and businesses in the Caribou Hills and along Oilwell Road. A Kenai Peninsula Borough assessment determined that 94 total structures were lost to the fire. At virtually the same time, the Susitna River fire burning near Trapper Lake in the Susitna Valley required the mobilization of a lower 48 Incident Management Team.

- Two Convair 580 air tankers and a “Bird Dog” aerially supervision aircraft and a helicopter and rappel crew were requested from British Columbia through the Northwest Fire Protection Agreement to augment aerial firefighting capability. Additionally, two CL-215 air tankers were requested from the Northwest Territories, again, through the Northwest Fire Protection Agreement.

- The Alaska Type 1 Incident Management Team mobilized to the western U.S. to manage a Type-1 incident in Montana.

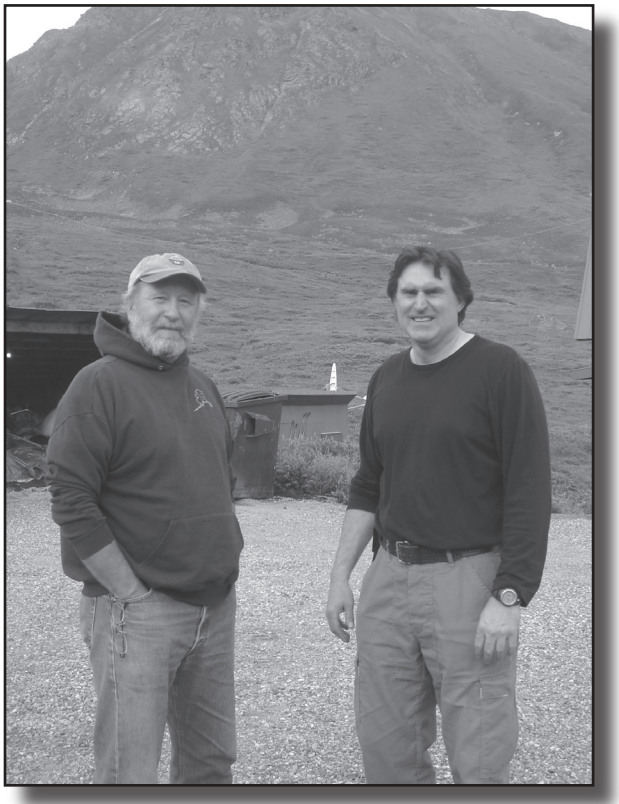
- As the fire danger subsided in Alaska, Alaskan firefighting specialists, aircraft and firefighting equipment traveled south to assist with firefighting efforts in the western states. Alaskans filled over 900 requests for firefighting personnel in 2007.

- 2007 marked the first ever mobilization of State of Alaska wildfire engines to the lower 48 states. Ten engines, all staffed with Alaskan firefighters, spent a total of 51 days on initial attack duty or assigned directly to fires in Montana.

- Alaska provided 40 Type-2 crews to firefighting efforts in the Lower 48. These 20 person crews of trained and experienced firefighters come primarily from remote Alaskan villages. Wages paid to these crewmembers totaled over $4.0 million and made an important contribution to the economies in these villages.

Governor Sarah Palin met with Forestry at the beginning of fire season, greeting many firefighters personally. Left to right are Dean Brown, Deputy State Forester, Chris Maisch, State Forester, Governor Palin, John See, Coastal Region Fire Management Officer and Mike Curran, Coastal Region Forester.

Carol Prior being awarded Employee of the Year by Jim Peterson, KKAO Area Forester who retired in April after 29 years. Photo by Ric Plate.



Lynn Wilcock, Chief of Fire and Aviation with Tom Dean, Mat-Su FMO who retired after 29 years with Forestry.

ALASKA STATE FORESTS

About two percent of state land in Alaska is in two designated state forests. In 1982, the Alaska Legislature established the 286,208-acre Haines State Forest in southeast Alaska. The following year, the legislature created the 1.78 million-acre Tanana Valley State Forest in the Interior.

In addition to the two designated state forests, much of the state's public domain land is available for multiple use, including forest management. DNR manages the state forests for a sustained yield of many resources. The primary purpose is the production, use and replenishment of timber while perpetuating personal, commercial and other beneficial uses of resources through multiple use management.

State forests provide fish and wildlife habitat, clean water, minerals, and oppportunities for recreation and tourism. The main difference between state forests and other areas set aside by the legislature is that state forests provide timber harvesting for commercial and personal use (AS 41.17.200) while allowing other beneficial uses in the forests.

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

Tanana Valley State Forest

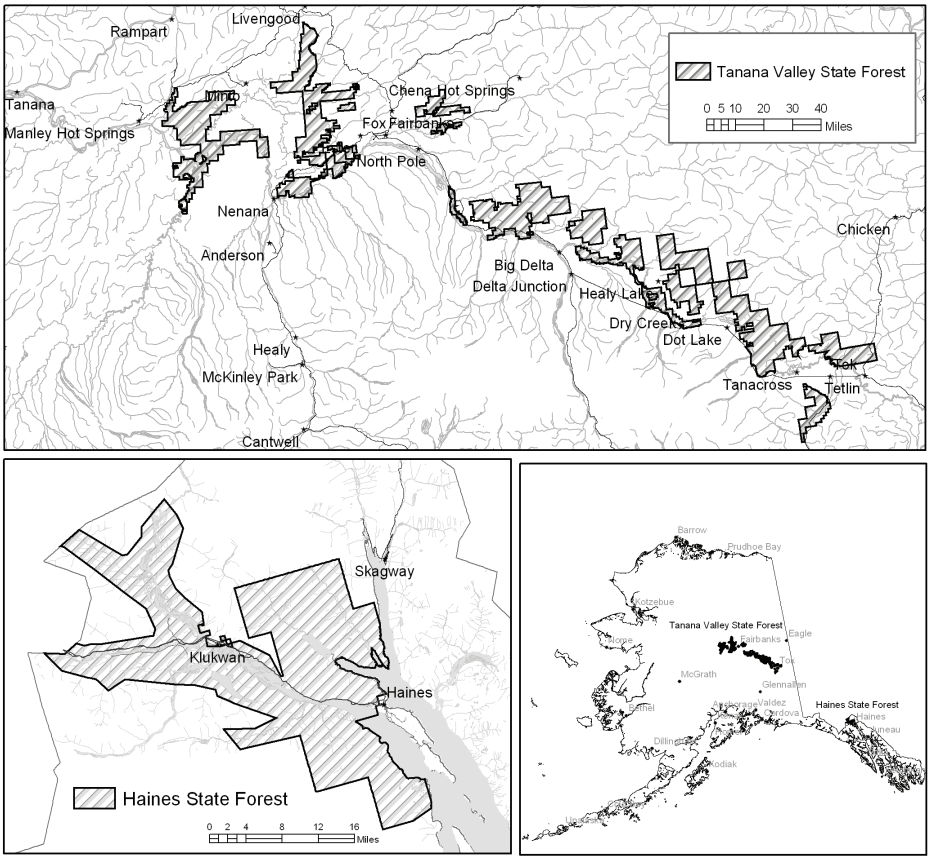
Most of the Tanana Valley State Forest's 1.78 million acres lie within the Tanana River Basin, located in the east-central part of Alaska. The forest extends 265 miles from near the Canadian border to Manley Hot Springs. It varies in elevation from 275 feet along the Tanana River to over 5,000 feet in the Alaska Range. The Tanana River flows for 200 miles through the forest. Almost 85 percent of the forest is within 20 miles of a state highway. Ninety thousand people live in the 18 communities adjacent to the forest.

About 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 timberland (1.1 million acres) is located in the state forest. Many productive stands are found on the uplands north of the Tanana River and along the river itself.

Legislation to update the state forest boundaries and increase the net acreage of the state forest by about 35,000 acres is currently under consideration as SB229.

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.

The forest is open to mining, gravel extraction, oil and gas leasing, grazing, and other uses, but timber production is the



major commercial activity. Management is guided by the Tanana Valley State Forest Management Plan last updated in 2001. The Bonanza Creek Experimental Forest is a 12,400-acre area dedicated to forestry research within the state forest.

Prospectors and miners have worked in this mineral-rich area since the turn of the century and continue operating today. Back-country logging roads, rivers and hiking trails provide access to remote areas and abundant recreational opportunities. Hiking, hunting, fishing, camping, berry-picking, 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 other small mammals that live in the forest. Trumpeter swans, geese, ducks and a variety of song birds are also present.

Haines State Forest

The Haines State Forest contains 286,208 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 15 percent of the state forest (41,652 acres) is dedicated to timber harvest, which has occurred in the forest since the 1960s. The annual allowable harvest is 5.88 million board feet. Although natural regeneration occurs readily, all large commercial sales have been replanted since the 1970s to accelerate reforestation.

The forest surrounds the 45,000-acre Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve, which is managed by the Alaska Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation.

The Homer Demonstration Forest

The Homer Demonstration Forest encompasses 360 acres within the Diamond Creek watershed just northwest of Homer. It was established in 1986, when the Division of Lands transferred the parcel to the Division of Forestry through an Interagency Land Management Assignment. The ILMA states that the land be used for, "…developing, operating and maintaining a demonstration forest for educational purposes."

Management authority was granted to DOF in conjunction with the University of Alaska Cooperative Extension Service, Homer High School, and the Homer Soil and Water Conservation District, assisted by the USDA Soil Conservation Service (now the Natural Resources Conservation Service). The demonstration forest is managed to provide multiple benefits to forest users. A steering committee developed the original Homer Demonstration Forest Plan in 1992. In 2004, the division gave a Community Forestry grant to the Homer Soil & Water Conservation District to reconstitute a steering committee to review and update the plan. The committee met over two years and collected data on the resources within the forest and how it was being used. It completed and printed the new plan in December 2006.

The plan encourages a wide range of activities in the HDF, particularly those promoting forest-related research, education, and recreation. The plan reexamines original HDF goals and objectives in light of modern management tools and current conditions and outlines tasks that can be undertaken to accomplish specific goals and objectives.

The goals are as follows:

- Stewardship
  - Maintain the quality of HDF soils, waters, plants, animals, and air for future generations.

- Education & Nature Observation
  - Provide areas where various forest uses and management practices may be tested, studied, and demonstrated.
  - Provide educational facilities and opportunities for learning about forest and wetland ecology.
  - Provide areas for viewing and learning about local wildlife.

- Research
  - Promote the HDF as a location where scientists, investigators, and students can conduct research related to silviculture, forest ecology, wetlands, and wildlife.

- Recreation
  - Encourage and provide facilities for recreational activities that are compatible with HDF stewardship, education, and research goals.

Equally important, the plan provides a variety of new maps that illustrate much of what is known about the forest. The maps give forest users and decision-makers a meaningful context for evaluating which tasks to undertake and where projects and activities can best be located.

FOREST RESOURCES AND PRACTICES

The Division of Forestry administers the Forest Resources and Practices Act (FRPA) on private, municipal, trust, and state lands. The division reviews notifications of timber harvests, conducts forest inspections, monitors compliance, provides training and public information, and when necessary, takes enforcement action.

The forest practices notification and review process does not require a permit before an activity begins. Rather, timber operators submit a Detailed Plan of Operations (DPO) to the Division of Forestry for review. The division then coordinates review of the plan with the DNR Office of Habitat Management & Permitting (OHMP) and the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). When the review is complete, the operator may begin harvest operations. Timber operators usually submit notifications well in advance of beginning operations, and reviews are completed within 30 days.

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.

Cooperative Efforts

Throughout 2007, DOF worked closely with OHMP and DEC to implement the Act on state, municipal, private, and trust lands.

- DOF conducted 168 inspections on state timber sales and 73 inspections on timber operations on other land.
- DOF and OHMP continued the Southeast Road Condition Survey to assess the implementation and effectiveness of best management practices on closed and inactive forest roads in Southeast Alaska. The good news is that after surveying 1,558 miles of road since 2004, only 66 culverts installed in fish-bearing waters have been found and measured. Of these, only 13 culverts were rated problematic for fish passage.
- DOF and DEC supported the second year of a water quality monitoring study on forest land in the Mat-Su Valley. The goal is to collect good baseline data prior to harvesting in this area.

Updated Regulations

On June 8, 2007, updated regulations to implement 2006 changes to the FRPA went into effect. The revisions reflect the new stream classification system for Region II, and incorporate new statewide BMPs for winter roads, variation procedures, landings on frozen wetlands, and definitions for lakes, ponds, winter roads, and temporary and permanent crossing structures.

Funding

In FY09, federal Clean Water Act funding for Forest Practices work by DOF and OHMP will decline sharply. The proposed state budget includes a shift in funding authority from interagency receipts to General Fund to offset the loss of federal funds and ensure that adequate implementation of the FRPA will continue.

Clarence Clark and Paul Slenkamp during Forest Practices Inspection. Photo by Steve Joslin.

Activity Summary

Notifications and inspections

The Division of Forestry received and reviewed 52 new DPOs and 47 renewals for private, municipal, and trust lands in 2007 (see table on page 10). New DPOs covered 15,318 acres and 49.7 miles of road. The number of new DPOs, acreage, and road mileage notified all declined compared to 2006. There were no requests for reforestation exemptions in 2007. Only two variation requests were received, both for harvesting within buffers on Afognak Island.

The Division conducted 73 field inspections on private, municipal, and trust land this year. This was a slight decrease from 2006, due to the drop in harvesting activity on private land. However harvesting on state land continued statewide, and staff conducted 209 forest practices inspections on state land, an increase from last year.

Enforcement

No charging documents, stop work orders, or directives were issued in 2007. The Division continues to work with three landowners on Afognak Island, and one on the Kenai Peninsula to achieve reforestation compliance on past harvest areas. All four landowners have efforts underway to progress toward full compliance. A fifth corporation achieved full compliance this year.

Training

Training for resource agency staff, landowners, and operators is essential to ensure effective implementation of the FRPA. In 2007, the Division provided 11 informal "tailgate" training sessions in the field, with a total of 36 people attending. OHMP attended joint training sessions with DOF personnel on Afognak Island and in Palmer. DOF also provided training to DOF staff on writing inspection reports, DPO correspondence, and the new BMPs for winter ice roads, and protocols for conducting BMP compliance monitoring.

New BMPs

In the 2006 session, the legislature adopted changes to the FRPA riparian management standards for Region II. On June 8, 2007, updated regulations to implement the revised statute went into effect. The regulation changes reflect the new stream classification system for Region II, and establish new best management practices (BMPs) for winter roads, variation procedures, landings on frozen wetlands, and definitions for lakes, ponds, winter roads, and temporary and permanent crossing structures.

Forest Practices Funding

Section 319 money continued to be an essential part of the funding for an adequate forest practices program in Alaska. It helps fund field staffing for project reviews, field inspections, enforcement activities, and monitoring. In FY09, this funding will decrease from $200,000 to $115, 000 in response to nationwide cuts in Section 319 funding. The State is requesting a shift in $85,000 from interagency receipt authority to General Fund money in the FY09 budget to offset the decrease. Without this funding, there will be a sharp decrease in FRPA implementation services in FY09.

Projected 2008 FRPA Activity

Overall, the 2008 work load in the Coastal Region could remain similar to 2007 due to expanded wood pellet and chipping activity on public and private land in southcentral Alaska, harvesting on state land in southeast, closeout inspections of harvest operations and roads, the Southeast Road Condition Survey on closed and inactive roads, and reforestation. Activity on non-state land is likely to decrease in southeast due to lack of available timber and global market uncertainties, and completion of Icy Bay operations. Harvest and road-building operations will remain active on Afognak Island. Activity in the Northern Region is expected to be similar to that in 2007.

FY08 Funding Sources for DOF Forest Practices Work

Funding source	Amount	% of Total
State General Fund – FRPA[1]	$537,100	69%
State General Fund Timber Sale Receipts – FRPA	$50,000	6%
Federal Section 319	$200,000	25%
Total	**$796,200**	**100%**

[1]This does not include $9,100 funding for the Board of Forestry.

Steve Joslin, Delta Forester, doing FRPA inspection in Southeast. Photo by Paul Slenkamp.

2007 FRPA ACTIVITIES ON PRIVATE, MUNICIPAL AND TRUST LAND

Region	# of New Notifications (DPOs)			# of Notification Renewals			Harvest Acreage in New Notifications			Road Miles Notified			# of Inspections Conducted - DOF		
	2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007
Coastal															
SSE	43	51	34	24	17	29	27733	37313	10263	34.1	25	23	59	20	39
NSE	5	3	7	3	0	2	344.3	413	1039	4	3	1	13	9	8
Mat-Su/SW	9	3	3	0	3	8	2762	5246	235	12	46	2	31	17	16
Kenai-Kodiak	4	13	7	3	0	7	3392	2694	3697	25	11	24	31	26	6
Coastal Total	**61**	**70**	**51**	**30**	**20**	**46**	**34231.3**	**45666**	**15234**	**75**	**85**	**50**	**134**	**72**	**69**
Northern															
Fairbanks	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Delta	1	0	0	0	0	0	60	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0
Tok	5	0	0	4	5	0	2360	0	0	57.75	0	0	6	0	0
Copper River	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	8	0
Northern Total	**17**	**0**	**0**	**5**	**6**	**0**	**2420**	**0**	**0**	**61.75**	**0**	**0**	**11**	**8**	**0**
TOTAL	**68**	**70**	**51**	**35**	**26**	**46**	**36651**	**45666**	**15234**	**136**	**85**	**50**	**145**	**80**	**69**

Region	# of Variation Requests Received			# of Variation Trees Reviewed*			FRPA Notices of Violation Issued			Acres Reviewed for Reforestation Exemptions			Acres Reviewed for Compliance with Reforestation Requirements		
	2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007
Coastal															
SSE	10	0	0	411	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NSE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MS/SW	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	168
Kenai-Kodiak	0	1	2	0	9	168	0	9	0	0	0	0	1542	568	50
Coastal Total	10	1	2	411	9	168	0	9	0	0	0	0	1542	736	50
Northern															
Fairbanks	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
Tok	3	0	0	0	**	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Copper River	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northern Total	**3**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
TOTAL	**13**	**1**	**2**	**411**	**9**	**168**	**0**	**9**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1542**	**736**	**50**

Region I: **Coastal** Alaska
Region II: **Southcentral** - boreal forest south of the Alaska Range
Region III: **Interior** Alaska

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

FOREST PRODUCTS MARKET OVERVIEW

State Tongass Projects Overview

Over the past three years, the State has been actively involved in efforts to ensure that the Tongass National Forest supplies sufficient economic timber to support local mills, while protecting wildlife habitat, recreation opportunities, and other forest resources through an effective conservation strategy. This effort in 2006, has had four components:

State "Bridge" Timber

To help local timber mills survive the decline in federal timber sales, the DNR Division of Forestry accelerated its sale program to maximize the volume of timber available from state land. From FY05 through FY07, the state sold 48.5 MMBF from lands in southern southeast Alaska. This volume has been essential to the continued operation of small and mid-sized mills during efforts to increase sales from the Tongass National Forest. In FY07, the volume of timber sales from state land rivaled that sold by the USFS, despite the vastly larger land base and staff for the national forest.

Key staff: Mike Curran, Greg Staunton, Paul Slenkamp, Clarence Clark (all DNR-DOF)

Economic Timber MOU

One of the barriers to stable timber operations in southeast Alaska has been the scarcity of economically feasible timber sales from the Tongass. The Interdisciplinary Teams (IDTs) planning the sales did not include expertise on forest economics, timber operations, and forest engineering. As a result, following NEPA review, sales were commonly found to be uneconomic to harvest. Starting in FY07, DNR dedicated a forester to work with federal Interdisciplinary Teams on the design of economically feasible timber sales on the Tongass National Forest. DNR foresters have also worked with the USFS to review timber cruising and appraisal procedures and recommend changes to better fit SE conditions. This project has been challenging – with a few highly skilled and dedicated people, the state Division of Forestry is having a significant influence on the operations of the much larger USFS.

Key staff: Clarence Clark, Paul Slenkamp, Mike Curran (all DNR-DOF)

Tongass Land Management Plan (TLMP) and Implementation

The USFS is updating the TLMP. The updated plan will govern timber harvests, habitat restoration, and other activities in the Tongass for the next 15 years. State staff from DNR, ADF&G, DOT&PF, and DCCED have coordinated closely with the Governor's Office to review and comment on the draft and final plan amendments, environmental impact statements, and record of decision. Review of the voluminous and complex documents was essential to ensure the protection of state interests in Tongass management, and to help strengthen the ability of the final docu-

Dean Brown, Deputy Director and Jack Phelps, DCED at the dedication of Port McKenzie and loading of a Korean chip hauling ship. Photo by Paul Campbell.

ments to withstand administrative and legal challenges. This was a major task on top of the regular duties of these departments. This was the first time the state submitted consolidated comments to Tongass planning efforts, which was a key element of success in influencing the plan. Equally important were efforts to develop and document joint commitments to continued state-federal cooperation to implement the plan.

Key staff: DNR – Mike Curran, Marty Freeman, Chris Maisch, Ed Fogels; ADF&G – Doug Larsen, Kim Titus, Dale Rabe, Tina Cunning, Tom Brookover; DCCED – Jack Phelps; DOT&PF – Andy Hughes; AIDEA – Jim Strandberg; Governor's Office Washington, D.C. – John Katz, Sam Bishop, Joe Balash

Tongass Futures Roundtable

The Roundtable is an effort to bring together a diverse group of stakeholders long involved in the Tongass to discuss how to incorporate economic, cultural, and ecological values in public policy issues throughout the region. The Roundtable seeks to explore how a broad range of stakeholders can address these public policy issues and work together to achieve a long-term balance of healthy and diverse communities, vibrant economies, and responsible use of resources -including timber, while maintaining the natural values and ecological integrity of the forest. The Roundtable influenced development of a legal settlement to free some Tongass timber sales from litigation and provide a "bridge" of timber volume to help local mills survive while the TLMP update was in progress. The Roundtable is also engaging in efforts to identify and map priority conservation lands. The mapping effort influenced the development of the Timber Sale Adaptive Management Strategy endorsed by the TLMP update with the intent of minimizing impacts on high-value conservation lands. Roundtable committees are also working on habitat restoration issues and strategies for accelerating the transition from old-growth to young-growth harvesting in the Tongass.

Key staff: DNR - Chris Maisch, ADF&G – Dale Rabe

2007 Alaska Wildland Fire Coordinating Group (AWFCG) in Fairbanks. Left to right: Dan Warthin, NPS; Dean Brown, Chair/Forestry; Steve Hepner, Vice Chair/BIA; Jim Bell, Tanana Chiefs Conference; John Gould, Alaska Fire Service; Gene Long, USFWS; Charlie Sink, Chugach-Miut; Dale Haggstrom, ADF&G; Alice Edwards and Heidi Strader, ADEC. Not pictured are Mike Burley, AVCP and Willie Thompson, USFS. Photo by Marsha Henderson.

DIVISION OF FORESTRY'S ArcIMS MAPPING WEBSITE GOES PUBLIC

http://forestrymaps.alaska.gov

In 2004, the largest fire season on record, over 6.5 million acres burned. The Boundary Fire and Wolf Creek fire burned 750,000 acres and threatened Fairbanks, resulting in numerous evacuations of outlying subdivisions. In 2005, the third largest fire season on record consumed over 4.6 million acres threatening communities on the Kenai and the interior. In 2006, the Parks Highway caused the evacuation of 250 homes and threatened the town of Nenana. In 2007, the Caribou Hills fire on the Kenai caused evacuations and the loss of 94 structures.

During the many public meetings held since the record 2004 fire season, the public often commented about the need for more timely and accurate information on the wildfires and evacuation information. In its report reviewing the 2004 fire season, Division of Forestry recommended a mapping website be developed to meet this need. The Fairbanks North Star Borough's Community Wildfire Protection Plan established the development of an ArcIMS mapping website as an important goal.

DOF took on the challenge of developing an ArcIMS website in the spring of 2005 using a variety of funding sources. The interactive mapping website is an important part of improving fire information to the public A website server was established in the Atwood Building in Anchorage and managed by DOF Northern Region GIS shop in Fairbanks. The server and software in the Atwood Building is supported by Dept. of Natural Resources-Land Records Information System (LRIS).

All available satellite imagery has been loaded, as well as fire protection levels, road systems, parcel databases, fuel treatment areas, Zones of Concern, hazardous fuel maps, state forest boundaries, timber sales, land ownership, and many other databases statewide. Data development for each area office will continue. The data will be loaded on the website as it is available.

The MapOptix website is extensively used by cooperating fire departments and the public to view fire locations and proximity to the urban areas. The Division of Forestry developed this mapping web site to feature all the imagery and numerous data coverages developed as part of Community Wildfire Protection Plan and other projects. All roads within each fire department area were mapped as to the type of fire engine they could support (e.g, larger Type I engines, medium Type 3 engines, or smaller Type 6 brush engines.) Fire departments use this information to train new volunteers on the accessibility of the various roads in their service area.

An internal DOF version of the website allows DOF only users to view restricted data. The internal site shows remote private cabin locations, so fire fighters are aware of the cabins needing protection ahead of a moving fire.

The internal site also features activated burn permits by parcel, active fire perimeters, fire planning maps, hazardous fuel treatments, hazardous fuel maps, protection levels, etc. It was heavily used by DOF dispatch for fire operations across the state in 2007, including the Su River fire in the Mat-Su Area and the Caribou Hills fire in the Kenai Area. Fire managers also used the site to triage large fires to determine private property and structures at risk in front of the fire, and to make strategic decisions on fire suppression resource allocations. In spring 2007, the site was rolled out to the public www.forestrymaps.alaska.gov.

Website shows roads and private parcels, two of many available data sets. The site is popular with the public while helping fire fighters in fire suppression.

Example of DOF mapping website displaying important fire information to the public. The public can see if they live in a Zone of Concern, areas identified as high risk from wildfire and can plan accordingly.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Coastal Region

There is a mixed outlook for the timber industry in the coastal region, based primarily on long term timber supply concerns and high fuel costs. A continued even supply of Forest Service timber in the Southeast does not look promising, putting the existing local sawmills at risk. There are thousands of acres of dead spruce on the Kenai Peninsula, but their use for lumber production is quickly deteriorating. Higher fuel costs and transportation costs have increased the difficulty of competing in the world markets. However, higher fuel heating costs have also brought the possibility of alternative energy facilities being established, especially on the Kenai Peninsula and the Mat-Su valley.

Timber manufacturers in the coastal region continue to expand niche markets for their finished products. Mills continue to install equipment to provide high value added products such as kiln-dried flooring, paneling, decking, interior molding, and other sought after specialty products from Alaskan trees. Manufacturers in Ketchikan, Prince of Wales, Hoonah, and Haines are developing completed log home kits and outside structures for local and export use. Demand for these niche products has not declined, but flat market prices and continued competition of alternative products has slowed expansion of the local mills.

The demand for State timber continues to be high and the Division has worked hard to meet those demands. Conversely, the supply of viable timber from other land owners has decreased the past few years, putting an additional strain on the Division's limited resources. In 2007 the Division continued to implement the Governor's initiative to supply additional timber volume to the mills in southeast Alaska. This is in response to the Forest Service's lack of sufficient timber supply from the Tongass National Forest to the local mills. The additional State volume has allowed most of the mills to continue operating at this time.

The veneer mill in Ketchikan, operated by the Renaissance Group, has slowly begun operations. The run through the mill was purchased in Canada. The owners have purchased some local veneer logs but are having difficulty in securing a long term supply of local timber. The lack of a reliable timber supply, high barging and transportation costs, and high operating investment may make it difficult for this mill to keep operating.

High fuel prices have increased interest in alternative energy, such as pellet mills, ethanol plants, and co-generation plants. Private sector companies are exploring possibilities for commercial operations on Prince of Wales Island, the Kenai Peninsula, and the Mat-Su area, thus increasing the potential demand for State timber. Commercial operations such as these focus on total fiber supply, rather than log volume and quality. These new industries would benefit the local communities and help build an integrated timber industry. This would also increase the demand for State timber in areas that have had minimal harvest in past years.

NPI's large chip operation in the Mat-Su area has slowed considerably since 2006. NPI still intends to continue chipping and shipping spruce and birch to the Far East through the dock at Point McKenzie, but is waiting for lower fuel prices and better market conditions. They purchased two state timber sales of approximately 1600 acres in the Mat-Su valley this year. Chipping operations require a large amount of timbered acreage every year to be successful. NPI is also exploring the idea of a pellet mill, possibly in the Fairbanks area. An operator from Washington has also begun exploratory review of available birch logs for possible lumber and veneer production. The Mat-Su Borough has curtailed their timber sales at this time, increasing the demand for State acreage to harvest.

The continued deterioration of the dead spruce on the Kenai Peninsula limits the amount of usable saw log timber by the local mills. This has forced some of the small mills to move out of the area or cease operations. An outside company is seriously looking at establishing a wood pellet mill on the Kenai Peninsula. In 2006, Hughes Pellets purchased a sawmill site in Stariski and purchased four State timber sales over the counter for a total volume of 33 million board feet. They intended to begin harvesting these sales in the fall of 2007, but have put this project on hold until 2008. They are also looking at the possibility of establishing a pellet mill in the Fairbanks area.

Mat-Su Area

Forest Resource Program on State Lands. Mat-Su offered and sold eight timber sales for a total of 1,306.8 acres, 9,485 cords of birch, and 183.7 mbf of spruce saw timber and two timber sale auctions were conducted. In the first auction one of two sales offered sold and the other went over the counter later in the year. The second auction offered the Copper timber sale in October.

The Houston Timber Sale Area (HTSA) had five active timber sales during 2007. Bond Brothers Logging, LLC cut timber for Poppert Brothers Milling. Later Bond Brothers bid on and purchased one of the HTSA timber sales offered at auction. Webster Wood Services finished a small sale and purchased another. Webster also completed 10 acres of contractual scarification. FLUPs for two timber sales in the Houston Timber Sale Area (HTSA) in 2008 were initiated.

The Copper Timber Sale was challenged in court but proceeded as scheduled. NPI, LLC was the sole bidder and signed the contract in October. The Copper Timber Sale encompasses 46 harvest units within 1,157 acres, and will offer 7,900 cunits of birch and 948 cunits of white spruce timber. Bridge upgrades crossing Willow Creek were completed this summer and upgrades for Willer-Kash Road and Iron Creek bridge are progressing.

Demand for small timber sales providing spruce and birch saw logs for lumber and three sided house/cabin logs, remained strong through 2007, with a slight lag noted early in the building season.

Demand for personal use firewood increased again in 2007 from 198 cords sold in 2006 to 290 cords sold by December 2007. Individual permits also rose from 77 personal use permits in 2006 to 105 by December 2007. Most permits were written for users along the road system. MSAO expects an increased demand for personal and small commercial fuel wood sales for home heating to continue. Less lot clearing and a down-turn in new home construction in the valley, is making residents turn to state lands for firewood.

Reforestation/Regeneration on State Land. Approximately 25 acres were scarified on state land cutting units in the Mat-Valley Moose Range and the Houston Timber Sale Area this year. Stumpage credits and contractual requirements were used through the timber sale program.

A project proposal to implement scarification on approximately 250 acres is being prepared for the HTSA to regenerate partial cut areas that reverted to grass after years of selective spruce harvest that left birch standing due to lack of market demand. Revenues from spruce only select harvest timber sales were insufficient to pay for scarification – stumpage credits were insufficient to scarify more than small areas within most units.

Regeneration surveys were cancelled this year due to the size and extent of the 2007 wildfire season. Regeneration checks will receive priority for 2008.

For the sixth year, the Game Division, ADF&G, Palmer Area Office harvested 40 to 60 acres/year in aspen stands to regenerate aspen to create an early successional stage of forest development for grouse, moose and other forest wildlife habitat. The Ruffed Grouse Society, Anchorage Chapter, allocated funding to ADF&G for the project.

Forest Land Use Planning and Review on State Land. The MSAO finished the planning process for two new proposed timber sales. Final Decisions and notification of timber sale auction were issued in December, and a timber sale auction is scheduled for January 2008. The new timber sales are located in the HTSA, total 103 acres, provide 150 thousand board feet of spruce saw timber, and 700 cords of birch fuel/chip wood. The Houston Forest Land Use Plan (FLUP) went out for public review in October 2007 as did the Houston FLUP which was a reoffer of a previous timber sale.

The larger Copper Timber Sale FLUP was approved and later contested by a law suit. The Copper Timber Sale was designed to provide timber for the larger scale timber industry and help to meet the demand for value added chip woods and saw logs. State forestry plans were also to regenerate the harvest units within those timber sales for future wood products, habitat improvement, forest diversity, subsistence resources, and forest management access.

The smaller HTSA timber sales were designed to provide saw logs and fuel wood for the local value added wood products industry, regenerate harvest units to a younger timber stand for future wood products, improve habitat components for wildlife that depend on an early stages of forest succession development, access and improve forest subsistence resources, enhance future trail infrastructure, and improve access for forest management and recreation.

Stan Vlahovich and Glenn Holt, Mat-Su Foresters collecting cones for reforestation. Photo by Jeff Graham.

In light of the increased demand for all wood products including wood chips, and fuel wood, the Division of Forestry in the Mat-Su Area has significantly increased the content of considerations already required within the FLUP's. Maps have been upgraded to ARC-VIEW/GIS format and are easily transferable by internet. The content required by statute within each FLUP has increased to better describe all concerns and considerations addressed, and a bibliography of literature sited has been added as increased interest by the general public in the review of FLUPs has occurred.

Forest Practices. The MSAO received and reviewed 2 Detailed Plans of Operations (DPOs) that encompassed 90 acres of commercial forest land. MSAO also made 14 Forest Practices field inspections (FRPA inspections) on private and other agency lands. 13 additional FRPA inspections were done on state timber sales, all of which were in the Houston Timber Sale Area. One Directive was issued to NPI, LLC on a Knikatnu timber sale and required them to remove cut spruce timber within the timber sale area to comply with the FRPA regulation 11 AAC 95.195 Clearing of spruce. Many loggers on state and private lands continue to have challenges removing spruce within one year of cutting to comply with regulation. Seed tree harvesting was the predominant cutting method in use the last two years because a market for wood chips and firewood had improved. Single tree selection cutting was utilized previous to the improved birch market and residual stems were used to quality the timber stand in meeting FRPA stocking standards.

Forestry Student Intern Program. The Forestry Student Intern Program, led by WFRT Al Strawn, is administered through the MSAO in cooperation with the Anchorage School District, King Career Center and the Mat-Su School District. Ten students explored various fields of natural resources through a variety of natural resource related projects and training. Forestry student interns learn valuable job skills, solve problems and learn teamwork. Their accomplishments, the projects and skills learned are truly impressive. A brief summary includes:

Fire Suppression: Interns took several fire training courses and passed the arduous pack test for red card qualification. They joined Pioneer Peak Crw in fire line exercises and were familiarized with fire operations.

Matanuska-Susitna Borough: MSB provided $5,200 in support and interns completed projects in road construction tree transplanting, regeneration survey of a MSB timber sale, culvert construction in concert with Alaska Job Corps, and tree culling/weed moval at MSB Parks Nursery.

Anchorage Fire Department: AFD provided $5,200 in support and interns worked on fuel mitigation in Bird, Indian and Bear Valleys which included fuels inventories, transects and layout.

State Parks and Recreation: Denali and Nancy Lake State Parks provided $500.

Denali State Park: Interns camped and worked removing hazard trees for a week, learning falling techniques, doing chainsaw work, and using hand tools.

Nancy Lake State Park: Interns camped for a week while they improved and created 3 miles of trail after a daily 3-5 mile hike to the job site.

Wasilla Soil & Water Conservation District: Interns learned about watershed management and installed check-dams for fish passage, installed vegetative revetments in erosion damaged areas, and performed bridge construction.

Homer Soil & Water Conservation District: Provided $5,200 in support. Interns camped four nights in the Demonstration Forest constructing an 836 ft boardwalk.

Mat-Su Area Forestry: Interns completed several projects. Forestry Stewardship provided funding for a moose exclosure and interns gathered tree height data in the experimental Larch plantation, and repaired a damaged moose exclosure in the Moose Range.

The 2007 Intern season exceeded all expectations. The crewmembers stayed safe, worked hard and had fun. Notable improvements through the season in attitude, work ethic and physical fitness were noted while all agencies were pleased with work performance and crew attitude.

Alex Strawn left DOF in the fall and went to work in Resource Management for the Mat-Su Borough. We appreciate his great work with us!

Personal Use Timber Program. Demand for personal use firewood increased again in 2007 from 198 cords sold in 2006 to 290 cords sold by December, 2007. Roadside available firewood continues to be more in demand as fuel oil costs for home heating rise. The MSAO expects an increased demand for personal and small commercial fuel wood sales for home heating.

The number of permits sold to individuals in the MSAO also rose in 2007 from 77 personal use permits sold in 2006 to 105 permits sold by December, 2007. Most permits were written for users along the road system. The MSAO has six designated personal use wood areas. One area is "free wood" where the public may take fire killed wood on state land within the "Millers Reach Fire" in the Big Lake community area. Personal use wood areas are located in or near the communities of Big Lake, Palmer/Wasilla, Sutton, Trapper Creek/Y-Community, Houston, and Willow. Permits are available in person at the MSAO, by mail, and/or by email. Personal use firewood costs the user $10/cord, $45.00/mbf for live spruce, $15.00/mbf for cottonwood, and $25.00/mbf for beetle kill. North of the Talkeetna River and west of the Susitna River, the cost change for wood is $35.00/mbf for live spruce, and $10.00 mbf for beetle kill. North of the Alaska Range the cost change for personal use spruce changes to $25.00/mbf for live spruce on state lands.

The MSAO implemented a small commercial (micro-commercial) over-the-counter (OTC) timber sale program last year within active or recently expired timber sales that have gone through the FLUP process, are currently being harvested for differing forest products or have just been closed out within the last two years, but still under a current FLUP.

These OTC and SCP timber sales along the road system harvest timber to facilitate site preparation or previous site preparation for natural regeneration, and to meet the demand for firewood in the road system areas of the Mat-Su Valley

Kenai - Kodiak Area

Forest Practices. A total of six field inspections were conducted on Afognak Island, for road building, timber harvest, and reforestation. Koncor Forest products submitted three Detailed Plan of Operations and six notifications to change road design previously reviewed by the Division of Forestry, the Office of Habitat Management and Permitting, and the Department of Environmental Conservation. Afognak Native Corporation submitted one DPO for harvesting timber and one for site preparation on 290 acres. In November, the Division of Forestry and OHMP inspected 162 trees within riparian buffers requested by Tran Pac Alaska for harvest. The Kenai / Kodiak Area Office anticipates additional requests for timber harvest within riparian buffers in 2008. Leisnoi Native Corporation completed site preparation for over 200 acres and planted 50,000 trees in an effort to meet Forest Practices requirements. On the Kenai Peninsula, there is one commercial harvest operation and one site preparation project underway on private ownerships near Homer.

Timber Sales and Forest Products. Fieldwork for three commercial sales located south of Anchor Point was completed in December, and will be available for bids in January 2008 (FLUP's were signed Nov 2006). These three sales are estimated to yield 900 MBF in varying portions of house logs, saw timber, and firewood.

In June, the Caribou Hills Fire destroyed the 1000-MBF Ninilchik Hills Timber Sale purchased in 2006 by Hughes Pellets Company.

The Kenai /Kodiak Area Office has negotiated 2 small timber sales with local operators to supply the need for local wood products.

Rising heating oil costs triggered increased public firewood demands. The Kenai / Kodiak Office responded by establishing public firewood cutting sites near Kasilof and Anchor Point.

Reforestation. A planting contractor from Hope, Alaska planted approximately 22,000 seedlings on 55 acres of logged timber sales south of Anchor Point. In July, a local contractor scarified 16 acres to prepare a logged site for natural spruce regeneration. The Department of Fish & Game in Homer has expressed interest in working with the Kenai / Kodiak Area Office to promote birch regeneration on logged sites to improve moose habitat. Ten thousand Lutz seedlings have been ordered for 2008, and are slated to be planted on sites deficient of regeneration based on surveys completed in 2006.

Hazard Fuel Reduction Projects. The Yukon Crew assisted Kenai / Kodiak personnel by burning dozens of slash piles along the Hope Highway. Planning and field reconnaissance was completed in December for constructing a fuel break between state land and a developing subdivision in Cooper Landing.

Al Strawn, left, with student intern crew showing typical trail clearing in Mat-Su.

Timber Volume Offered and Sold in Commercial Sales by Fiscal Year

Timber volume offered for sale (MBF) -- Includes new offerings, reoffers, and sales available over-the-counter

Fiscal Year	Coastal Region Southeast	Coastal Region Southcentral	Northern Region	State Total	# Sales offered Statewide
FY 98	15,128	18,412	22,689	56,229	84
FY 99	5,302	7,777	15,522	28,601	55
FY 00	11,599	9,361	14,966	35,926	88
FY 01	5,954	8,568	17,999	32,521	98
FY 02	16,655	3,749	17,756	38,160	94
FY 03	9,452	12,470	15,027	36,949	105
FY 04	13,564	21,133	7,653	42,350	64
FY 05	21,318	37,929	17,460	76,706	101
FY 06	17,335	37,346	29,233	83,914	93
FY 07	30,945	30,228	21,775	82,948	85

Timber volume sold (MBF)

Fiscal Year	Coastal Region Southeast	Coastal Region Southcentral	Northern Region	State Total	# Sales sold Statewide
FY 98	14,623	17,754	13,211	45,588	60
FY 99	4,797	2,803	6,953	14,553	32
FY 00	8,365	5,774	6,640	20,779	60
FY 01	954	1,857	6,064	8,875	60
FY 02	11,340	1,333	4,207	16,880	56
FY 03	4,145	9,779	4,813	18,737	68
FY 04	8,064	957	2,708	11,729	50
FY 05	16,003	4,564	5,594	26,161	76
FY 06	10,777	1,703	12,478	24,959	63
FY 07	24,437	30,110	6,420	60,967	65

Timber Program Revenue by Fiscal Year

Fiscal Year	Revenues
FY 98	$ 773,200
FY 99	$ 339,900
FY 00	$ 334,300
FY 01	$ 370,200
FY 02	$ 454,100
FY 03	$ 475,900
FY 04	$ 660,300
FY 05	$ 834,500
FY 06	$ 502,500
FY 07	$ 661,900

Note: Timber program revenue is primarily from timber sales; approx. 2% of the revenue comes from other sources, including log brands, seedlings, retained damages, and document fees.

Number of Personal Use Permits Fiscal Year 07

Coastal Region - Southeast	0
Coastal Region - Southcentral	20
Northern Region	355
Statewide total	**375**

Units of Measurement

Board foot (bf) = the unit used to measure lumber. One board foot equals one foot square by one inch thick.
MBF = thousand board feet
MMBF = million board feet

State Fiscal Year 2007 runs from July 2006 through June 2007

Northern Southeast (NSE) Area

Timber Operations. Timber operations on the Haines State Forest continue to focus on small timber sales to local sawmills for value added timber processing. Two larger sales have been available for over the counter purchase and have seen some interest expressed but have received no bids to date. An additional large sale is prepared and nearly ready for sale. The division sold eleven small-negotiated sales to local operators for a total volume of 645 MBF and generated $ 21,434.00 for the state. This volume helped supply three to four local mill owners with material for processing. Most of these mills cut and sell rough-cut green spruce lumber. One mill is cutting hemlock boards that are shipped to Washington for rail road ties or for reprocessing as door and window trim. Some of the volume is processed as house logs and shipped to a nearby Yukon market with some being shipped as far as Tok, Delta Junction and the Mat-Su Valley. The local operators continue to search out specialty markets with a focus on primary product manufacturing.

Thinning. Pre-commercial thinning continued on the Forest with 66 acres completed in 2007 and contracts for another 57 acres begun. This brought the total acres thinned (or under contract) since the program began in 1993 to 1,888. Thinning, by removing trees competing for sunlight, maintains the tremendous growth these stands are presently producing and will create larger trees in a shorter period. Thinning has the added benefit of maintaining browse species for moose. Additional prescriptions were implemented in 2002 in an attempt to provide release for the dominant trees but also to retain some of the smaller trees to provide for natural pruning of the future crop trees. Several areas are also not being thinned for the purpose of comparison and to provide diversity. The stands where most of the thinning is occurring were harvested in the late 1960s and early 1970s and are now 20 to 70 feet tall and 6 to 16 inches in diameter.

The division continued its pruning program by offering an additional 30 acres in 2007 to make a total of 247 acres completed or under contract. The pruning program began in 2000. The pruning areas are the second growth stands that have been thinned at least two years previous. One pruning contract was let last year in an unthinned stand. A local contractor prunes the branches from the base of the tree to 16 feet up. The larger diameter dominant trees are selected for pruning at a density of about 75 trees per acre. Through pruning we hope to provide clear or knot free lumber over the remainder of the 120-year rotation age, which will provide higher future values.

Icy Bay. State timber harvest operations in Icy Bay, by the University of Alaska, as part of a court settlement agreement finished up this year and roads were begun to be closed out. This marks the end of an era as state timber harvests have occurred here since the first state timber sale was sold in 1969. Timber sales have continued since then and almost 600 million board feet of timber has been removed from State and Mental Health lands off the Icy Bay road system. There are approximately 36 miles of mainline road and 6 miles of spur roads that will be closed out in 2008. Six bridges that will be pulled out during the road closure are scheduled to be moved from Icy Bay to the Haines for use on the Haines State Forest.

Road Condition Survey. The Northern Southeast area continued as the lead for the Division on a Road Condition Survey Project started in 2004. This is a cooperative project with OHMP and ADF&G to survey the condition of logging roads on non-federal land in Southeast Alaska. The project is focusing on older, closed out logging operations. The survey will evaluate how well the Forest Resources and Practices Act and Best Management Practices have protected fish habitat and water quality and determine if there are any existing road related problems with fish passage or water quality. As part of the project, we have obtained satellite imagery for 12 different areas in Southern Southeast Alaska covering about 285,000 acres. This imagery is made available to the landowners at no charge.

Field Inspections. The Division and OHMP jointly determine which areas to field inspect annually. Landowners are invited to participate in field inspections and have been very helpful with logistics to the remote sites. Four areas were field inspected in 2007 -- two areas at Big Salt near Klawock on Sealaska and Klawock-Heenya land on Prince of Wales Island, Shee Atica land on Admiralty Island near Juneau, Sealaska land in the Natzuhini Creek area on Prince of Wales Island and on State and University land in the Haines State Forest. The imagery for these areas was terrain-corrected and digital orthophotos were made prior to the field reviews. The roads were digitized and linked to a database. Field teams walked and reviewed one hundred and fifty three out of a total five hundred and two miles of road this year. GPS points were taken at all waypoint features such as culverts, bridges, road segments, and erosional features such as washouts, slides, road failures etc. The database will then link these GPS points and waypoint features to database records and data sheets. The waypoints for every crossing structure and road segment were given a BMP rating as to how ell they meet the regulations. The data has been entered into the database and is currently being summarized.

Kenai-Kodiak Area Forestry Staff (left to right): Mike Hayes, Carol Prior, Rusty Hippchen, Tom Marok, Jim Peterson, Barbara Phegley, Don Anderson, Steve Scales, LeAna Moore, Dan White, Dale Anderegg. Photo by Ric Plate.

Haines State Forest Management. A late November 2005 storm caused significant damage to the State Forest Roads with road washouts, landslides over the roads, culvert failures and road surface and ditch damage. A state declaration of disaster was declared and temporary repairs were completed in 2006 so access to timber sales and reforestation activities could continue. Permanent repairs were completed on the Little Salmon, Sunshine, Knobs and Kelsall roads in 2007. The total cost of these repairs was $535,585.

Mental Health Trust Lands. The Division signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the Mental Health Trust to include Mental Health Trust lands and timber in the small timber sale program on the Haines State Forest. The Trust still approves all timber sales prior to sale and the stumpage money gets deposited into the Trust account. An RSA is set up to compensate the Division of Forestry for time spent preparing, selling and administering these sales. This agreement allows the Division to better meet the needs of the local timber industry and also provides revenue to the Mental Health Trust. Two sales were sold in 2007 for 160 MBF with a value of $10,425.00.

Southern Southeastern Area

Personnel. In CY 2007 there were some changes in the area. The Resource Forester, Clarence Clark was shifted to working full time with the United States Forest Service (USFS) on the Economic Timber Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) project. In the past few years the SSE Area has provided "bridge timber" for local processors and has sold 26 timber sales containing 27 MMBF of volume for over $1.8 mil. in stumpage receipts. The task of administrating these sales located throughout the southern southeast panhandle and to continue to provide future timber sales has been a challenge. To aid in the accomplishment of the task the position of Area Resource Forester was filled by Mat Dunford in November. The amount of logging on private lands has declined over the past several years which has reduced the Forest Practices workload. This has allowed Forest Practices Forester, Pat Palkovic, to diversify and help with timber sale layout and administration as well as perform Alaska Forest Resource and Practice Act compliance duties.

Timber Harvest. In CY 2007 the Southern Southeast (SSE) Area Timber Sales declined as operators' harvested volume purchased the two preceding years. The Area sold 6,106 MBF of timber in 2007. This volume was in the form of 6 separate sales for a total of $578,621. The SSE area continues to play a vital role in supplying timber to the remaining forest products industry in the SSA, Southern Southeast Area. The three remaining mid sized operators are reliant on state supplied wood to meet the minimum volume required to remain operating. The SSE Area is committed to making fiber available to the industry. The available timber base that the USDA Forest Service will be able to make available to industry continues to be uncertain. This has fueled indecision within the industry in SSE. The DOF continues to make available additional timber to bridge the gap. Active multi-year sales continue on Wrangell Island, Prince of Wales Island and Gravina Island.

Wrangell Island. Silver Bay Logging (SBL) continues to work on the East Passage Sale. SBL has logged 4,800 MBF of the total sale volume of 9,110 MBF .They have also constructed 1.1 miles of the 2.76 miles of main line road.. When finished, this road will complete an access loop that will connect Pat's Creek with the Airport Road in Wrangell. The loop will require action by the City of Wrangell to keep it open for public access after the timber sale is completed. SBL is operating its mill in Wrangell almost exclusively on wood supplied by the DOF and the Alaska Mental Health Land Trust.

Prince of Wales Island. Prince of Wales Island (POW) has one operational medium sized mill, Viking Lumber Company, located in Klawock. There are also many small shake and sawlog mills located on the Island. The DOF maintains an active presence on POW and is one of the primary providers of timber. During CY 2007 nine timber sales totaling 11,700 MBF was harvested by six operators on POW. Viking Lumber Company currently holds three active timber sales: Thorne Bay #2 is complete except the removal of equipment, South Thorne Bay #1 has approximately 6 acres (180 MBF) of tower logging to complete, and the 20 Road Sale which has about 1 MMBF remaining. It is anticipated that Viking will finish these sales in early 2008. Icy Straits Lumber of Hoonah also logged an additional 1,500 MBF of timber on its Kasaan #2 Timber Sale. Icy Straits also completed the Sale's road system to access the remaining 1,500 MBF of timber. It is anticipated that Kasaan #2 will be completed in the summer of 2008. An additional 5 MMBF of sales will be advertised for proposals the winter of 2007 - 2008.

Gravina Island. The Bostwick Timber Sale held by Pacific Log and Lumber continues to be harvested. This sale which is located on Gravina Island, just across the channel from Ketchikan initially contained 12.65 MMBF. Pacific Log and Lumber has harvested 4.8 MMBF of that volume which is processed at their mill which is also on Gravina. This project has been conducted as part of the "bridge timber" program started by the Murkowski Administration. This sale was sold utilizing the "High Value-Added" statute (AS38.05.123) and requires in-state processing. There are two years remaining of the three year contract and the volume will augment the current timber sales which PLL holds with the USDA Forest Service to maintain an operational timber supply for their mill. The Bostwick Timber Sale, a scaled sale, entails payment on scaled volume through the duration of the sale.

Thinning. The SSE Area contracted Precommercial Thinning (PCT) services on 58 acres of state land on Prince of Wales Island. This activity is an investment in the future. Studies show that the thinning process significantly increases harvestable future stand quality and volume. Second growth stands will have an increasing importance in Southeast Alaska as the States' limited land base containing old-growth timber stands are harvested. Studies being conducted also indicate thinning can have a positive effect on wildlife habitat. The DOF will continue to perform PCT as funding allows.

Assistance. The SSE Area is working with several communities and agencies on access issues. The Area office began working with the Hollis Community Association this year to provide continued recreational access to the Harris River. The footbridge (constructed from the original bridge build in the 1950's) which provides access across the stream is nearing collapse. This site is one of the most heavily used recreational areas on POW. The SSE Area office is working to replace the footbridge in conjunction with a planned timber sale in the area and helping the Community Assoc. with developing a recreation site along the stream. The Area office is also helping to provide access to the City of Coffman Cove's industrial site through proposed timber sale roads.

SSE office works with several other agencies such as the Office of Habitat Management and Permitting and the State Historical Preservation Office during the planning, active and closing stages to ensure that fish habitat and areas of historical significance are adequately protected. Planning continues for joint timber sales and road use with the USDA Forest Service in the Wrangell, Craig, Ketchikan, and Thorne Bay Ranger Districts. The DOF continues to assist the University of Alaska and the Alaska Mental Health Land Trust by providing information, timber sale layout, and forest management assistance on their lands.

USFS MOU. The DOF in Southern Southeast expanded cooperative efforts with the Forest Service in 2007. The legislature designated funding for a full-time position to work cooperatively with the United States Forest Service (USFS) under an "Economic Timber Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). This program was started in the spring of this year and is already paying dividends. Current progress is being made on several fronts: we are working with the USFS in the field on layout, plans are being made to jointly offer timber in areas to provide economy of scale, and we are working with the forest service on Inter Disciplinary Planning Teams. Under the Economic Timber MOU and cooperative programs joint operations were explored on Kosciusko and Hecata Islands. Options involving second growth harvest, timber sale appraisals, and timber cruising were also explored. It is mutually recognized that the State and the USFS will have to step up cooperation in putting out sales if the present forest products industry is to be maintained or expanded.

Beach Log Salvage. The SSE Area has administered Beach Log Salvage licensing since 2005. The beach log salvage program provides a vehicle for commercial operators to recover lost sawlogs from the coastal waters of southern Southeast Alaska. The Southeastern waters are divided into 56 total salvage areas; 23 in northern Southeast and 33 in southern Southeast. This program requires coordination with the USDA Forest Service and other upper tideland property owners. In 2007 there were seven active salvagers. This year four salvage permits were renewed, three new permits were issued and another salvage area is currently undergoing the application process.

Log Brands. The log brand program was also taken over by the SSE Area in 2005. For the 2007 year we registered 5 new brands and renewed an additional 23 registered brands. The process is currently underway to publish a revised Log Brand Book.

Northern Region

The demand for wood and wood products in the interior continues to rise. The high price of fuel oil is driving demand for fuelwood for both commercial and personal use. Installation of wood-fired boilers for home and business use is gaining in popularity, as are wood pellet stoves and the traditional wood burning stoves.

An "Access Planning Pilot Project" has been initiated for Tok Area to aid in developing a transportation network plan for that portion of the Tanana Valley State Forest. The goal is to have a long-range road network plan in place that can be implemented in stages to develop access to local timber sales, provide for public use, allow access for fire management needs, and address road maintenance requirements of the Alaska Forest Resources and Practices Act. This road network will provide access to much of the merchantable timber burned during the 2004 fire season.

For the first time in several years the Regional Office is fully staffed in both the Forest and Fire Management programs, having completed the hiring of several key positions, including the addition of a statewide inventory forester. Currently, the Division is in the process of conducting a forest inventory to update information that is several years old. When completed, the inventory will offer information for potential investors and industries on the location and volume of timber available. The division, working with the Fairbanks Economic Development Corporation and the Tanana Chiefs Conference, has rewritten the 'New Growth' prospectus publication that provides salient information for businesses looking at potential opportunities to locate industry in the interior. Concurrently, a "Cost of Energy" committee was formed in Fairbanks at the bequest of the Interior Issues Council to seek alternatives to the high cost of energy in the interior and throughout rural Alaska. In addition to conservation strategies a number of renewable alternative energies were analyzed, including biomass, geothermal, and wind. Northern Region staff was involved in the analysis and provided information on potential volumes of wood and woody biomass available from timber harvest and fire mitigation efforts.

The Alaska Wood Energy Conference brought together panelists, presenters, and attendees from across Alaska and the lower 48 states. Held in Fairbanks in mid-November the conference included presentations and discussion on wood energy systems, sustainability, new markets and technologies and new project opportunities for Alaska. The conference addressed issues that are relevant throughout the state.

Fairbanks Area

For calendar year 2007, the Fairbanks Area Office sold twelve (12) timber sales, amounting to nearly a 2.22 million board feet of timber, down slightly from last year, and 4,674 cords, up 150% from last year. Fifty five active timber sales were under contract and included road construction valued at $232,000.
Overall market demand was up due to an increase in home and cabin construction and high fuel oil prices in the Fairbanks area. The major sawmilling operators reported another strong year in sales due strong home construction markets. High oil prices resulted in increased firewood demand and continue the upward trend experienced during the previous three years. Fire wood was selling for $200 to $220 per cord in 2007. Personal use permits increased from 180 permits in 2004 to 346 permits in 2006 to 435 permits for 1870 cords in 2007, an increase of 240% from 2004. The firewood program provides fuelwood to 435 households in Fairbanks. The public firewood program was cut in 2004. A greatly reduced public program has been maintained.

Research continued on hazardous fuel reduction techniques at Cache Creek on the Tanana Valley State Forest. In the summer of 2005, the windrow piles from the shear blading treatment areas were ground into chips by a tub grinder. In the fall of 2005, chips from the treatment were applied to the Cache Creek road to test the viability as a road surface application to reduce erosion on the state forest roads. In the spring of 2006 after spring breakup, the effect of application on the road test site was documented. The chips worked very well, eliminating all erosion caused by spring runoff cause by melting snow. This application is being studied for broader scale use on the state forest roads.

Also a test of these chips as a source of pellet fuel has been set up for the newly constructed pellet mill at Delta Junction. The pellet mill is slated to be operational early in 2008, producing wood pellets for wood pellet stoves in the interior. This work supports using hazardous fuel treatment waste material for bio-fuels. A report on this research "Analysis Of Wood Volume Available From Hazard Fuel Reduction Projects And Development Of Wood Residue Markets In The Fairbanks Area" was completed this year and is available on the Division of Forestry's webpage http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/forestry/.

NPI company of Palmer has been working on developing an industrial sized wood pellet facility in Fairbanks. NPI will use sawmill waste from local mills, land clearing waste, and hardwoods and spruce from the Tanana Valley State Forest to supply the mill. The pellet mill will produce pellets for the local home heating market, as well as for large consumers such as public buildings, schools, and potentially power generation. NPI will base their business decisions on the information provided by the Division of Forestry's inventory being completed for the Fairbanks vicinity.

Sara Saarloos with Governor Palin and Lynn Wilcock at a fire prevention message event in Fairbanks for Wildland Fire Day.

No trees have been planted on harvested sites for the last three summers due to lack of funding. Funding was allocated for 2008 and 100,000 seedlings were ordered in December 2007 for the 2008 planting season.

Reforestation continues to play a vital role in guaranteeing timber for the future. To meet Forest Resource Practices Act requirements this backlog of unplanted harvest sites will be dealt with in the coming years.

Tok Area

Forest Resources. Record high oil prices and the resulting record high home heating / fuel oil prices have greatly impacted the Tok area. This is creating a tremendous demand for firewood as people convert from oil to wood heat for their homes. The outside wood furnaces have become very popular in the area and require a large volume of firewood, averaging over one cord a week. Thus fuelwood has become a very important resource to the residents of the Upper Tanana Valley. Meeting the demand for the firewood has become a real challenge with a lack of access and road infrastructure in the area. Several firewood salvage timber sales were recently sold; this will help to develop some of the badly needed infrastructure to access more firewood and attempt to meet the local demand. One small negotiated timber sale was put up this fall in an area burned in the 1990 Tok River fire. Amazingly much of the wood can still be salvaged for sawlogs and firewood in this area after 17 years. Local sawmills cannot meet market demand for milled houselogs and other saw products from both from green and fire-killed timber. We are working to ramp up the timber program to meet the needs of the area. This is an important source of year-round employment in the area.

Work is accelerating to develop renewable energy projects with woody biomass fuels from the extensive forest of the interior. The wood heat could be used for generating electricity which is currently produced with extremely expensive diesel generators. The electrical rate is among the highest in the state on the road system. Alaska Power and Telephone has agreed to look seriously at the feasibility of this project for there future needs. The biomass could also be used for heating schools and other large public buildings such as the volunteer fire department, DNR Forestry and DOT shops. This also has the tremendous benefits of hazardous fuel reduction in the wildland urban interface making the residents safe from fire and saving millions of dollars preventing a catastrophic wildfire. This also has important wildlife enhancement benefit for moose and grouse which is important for the subsistence lifestyle of the area. The work on a biomass inventory project will include a joint effort with Tanana Chiefs Council and the University of Alaska Fairbanks forestry program. This will confirm green tons per acre per timber type for the (whole tree) biomass of the forest. This will be an important component in determining the feasibility of a biomass project. This project could have a very large, positive impact to the regional economy. Forestry could become a leading agency in the renewable energy demands of the future for the State of Alaska.

Pete Schlott processing firewood at a Delta Junction sale owned by GIO Alaska. Photo by Steve Joslin.

Fairbanks timber drum grinder working windrows at Cache Creek research area.

Joint projects with Tanacross, Tetlin Native corporations and the Tanana Chiefs Council are underway with GPS coordinates to locate the respective joint property line with the State of Alaska. This will be combined with posting signs, mapping and public education efforts on what land is private and public, what activities are permitted and what the designated and legal access is for each area. This will help to resolve longterm trespass issues in the area and foster important working relationships.

A long range forest management resource and transportation planning effort will be a focused priority for the Tok Area this year. The plan will identify forest uses such as timber resources for sawlogs, cordwood and woody biomass, recreation uses and opportunities along with important fire suppression aspects. The feasibility studies for potential biomass electric generating facilities being operated, highlights the need for a very well thought out plan our forest looking years into the future.

Fire Management. The British Columbia Forestry rappel Helicopter and crew helped to cover the Tok area during High fire danger this summer. It was the first time a rappel ship had operated in Alaska during a fire season. We hope this is the beginning of a long term opportunity with BC to use this incredible asset in Alaska fire fighting efforts. The Ladue River fire, the largest of the year for Tok, was in a Limited suppression area on the Canadian Border. Tok sent one engine with crew to the lower 48 with the rest of the DOF contingent.

A concerted effort began early this year to develop the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) for the Tok Community. Several public meetings and meetings with local leaders, the volunteer fire department, state agencies and the US Fish and Wildlife - Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge were held. This included a public education effort for forest silviculture to explain the different treatment options and prescriptions for removing the high volume hazardous fuels and the desire outcome of a stand conversion to Aspen. The Tok DOF office will work with the six villages and communities to develop a CWPP and a plan for an overall plan for the Upper Tanana Area.

Another 40 acres of hazardous fuels were removed in a continued project with the cooperative agreement with the US Fish and Wildlife Service – Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge along the Red Fox Road north of Tok. 90 acres of slash piles were burned this year as part of the project. Additional funding was secured for continued hazardous fuel mitigation work identified in the Tok Area CWPP. This includes a project at the Tok School to remove hazardous fuels around the school to make it safe from the threat of wildfire and hopefully use the material to heat the school. This is being used as an educational opportunity with the school to edu-

Fairbanks timber seedling planted in a harvest unit 6 years ago. Photo by Dave Maxell.

cate the students about the forest they live in and how to take steps to protect homes from a wildfire. Additional funding sources need to be secured for the very important work of reducing the wildland fire threat that in Tok and surrounding communities.

Tok increased efforts to educate the public with the Firewise message and home assessments which are important and much needed components of our new fire prevention program. The Forestry slash pit provided to the public continues to be a popular and important success in Tok allowing residents thinning and clearing their property of hazardous fuels and helping to eliminate the danger of people trying to burn the slash themselves.

Valdez/Copper River Area

Timber Harvesting. Speculation would best describe the current interest for large timber sales in the Copper River Basin. Interest in wood fiber to be used as fuel continues to gain momentum as oil prices continue to climb. Access and logging cost continue to be the most challenging hurtles for this new industry. The area office will continue to try and help overcome these issues by working with adjacent land owners and securing monies for access as it becomes available.

While speculation is interesting, local mills such as Regal Enterprises in Kenny Lake has taken advantage of the states negotiated and competitive bid sales by turning them into high dollar, value added products such as moldings and siding. Regal Enterprise's Ultraspec molding machine coupled with a wood fired kiln went on line this summer and is providing a competitive, high quality product.

Personal Use Products. The Copper River Area continues to see a major increase in the requests and inquiries for personal use wood products. The primary focus has been on accessible beetle-killed spruce for fuelwood. The Area office added two additional large wood cutting areas this year; one in the Glennallen area the other on the south side of the Lowe River in Valdez.

The Cordova wood cutting area located at 13 mile on the Copper River Highway continues to be a multi-interagency agency success. High use has required an addition spur road be developed into the center of the harvest unit to access additional wood. The road will be developed by the local Department of Transportation and maintained by local wood cutters, Division of Forestry and the USFS. This personal use wood cutting area continues to get great support from the community of Cordova. Since it's opening in May of 06 there has been over 107 permits issued for the harvesting of firewood and sawlogs.

Forest Practices. Forest Practices inspections continued this year on private lands. Field inspections centered on road maintenance and surface water issues. In late July, NPI successfully completed the required upgrades to the Klutina Lake road. The work required the operator to lengthen all the existing culverts and complete several new installations. Additionally the area office will continue working with Ahtna on their request to place all their logging roads into inactive status.

Tok Type II Crew being mobilized at AFS for and out-of-state assignment. Photo by Maggie Rogers.

Firewise, Community Wild Fire Protection Plans and Fuels for Schools. The area office was actively involved again this year in promoting Firewise communities and developing CWPP's for the Glennallen and Chitina Areas. This fall, Chitina completed their Community Widfire Preparedness Plan and became first rural community in Alaska outside of an organized borough to complete a CWPP. Chitina has future plans for becoming a fully recognized Firewise Community. An additional CWPP is currently being drafted for the community of Strelna located on the McCarthy road in the Wrangell-St.Elias National Park and Preserve.

The feasibility studies for the Fuels for Schools program identified the Kenny Lake School as a possible candidate for a wood fired boiler. This request was submitted last year in cooperation with the UAF Cooperative Extension Service and supported by the Cooper River School District. Timing could not be better as fuel oil prices climb and the focus is shifting to alternative heating sources.

Tanana Valley Forest Inventory Update

The update of the Tanana Valley forest inventory was initiated in part by response to the New Growth Prospectus seeking value added wood processing facilities in Interior Alaska. The prospectus was published in 2003 and has generated interest in both the spruce and hardwood resource. The prospectus was re-published in 2007 and included an updated vicinity map and cover letter. Several companies have expressed interest in the timber resource including lumber manufacturers as well as bioenergy developers. To attract value added facilities to the Interior, forest volume, productivity, tree quality, hardwood species differentiation, and stand location parameters need to be extremely reliable for businesses to invest large sums of money into the region. This is especially true with the birch resource where wood quality can vary significantly between stands. A request to fund the inventory was made to the legislature. In fiscal year 2007 $250,000 capital improvement funds along with a $120,000 one time increment was appropriated. For FY 2008 an additional $250,000 was appropriated along with the $120,000 increment. The increment was made as a permanent addition to staffing levels to create an Inventory Forester position to coordinate inventory efforts on a statewide level.

This new update differs from the past inventory (last updated in 1995) in that the aerial photos used to delineate stands are scanned and geo-referenced to reflect real world coordinates. These photos, now in digital form, can be displayed on the computer in stereo and timber typed directly on the computer using this 3 dimension technique. This creates accurate georeferenced timber stand polygons. Existing photography of 4 inch to 1 mile scale has been digitized into stereo pairs. New photography that was flown this past summer already is in a format to be displayed in stereo and is currently being timber typed. It was fortuitous that the new imagery flown this summer was during a peak in aspen leaf miner activity. Because of this, the aspen stands display much differently than the birch allowing easier timber type differentiation between the two species.

Initial forest land area to be updated includes state forest and forestry classified lands between Healy Lake and Manley Hot Springs. Total area of the update is approximately 1.2 million acres or roughly two-thirds of the productive forest lands. Funding received for FY 2008 will extend the update to additional forest land. Preliminary field sampling was conducted in September and October of 2007 in road, trail and river accessible areas between Nenana and Delta. A total of 120 stands were sampled comprising 1,200 measurement plots on 286,000 acres of poletimber and sawtimber. A report summarizing this data will be available in the beginning of 2008. Additional field sampling will be performed in the summer of 2008 and a final report completed by December.

Anchorage was named Tree City USA for the first time in 2007, joining six other Alaskan Tree Cities. Forestry's Resources Program Manager Marty Welbourn-Freeman joined Mayor Mark Begich in celebrating the occasion at Russian Jack Springs Park. Photo by Nancy Beardsley.

REFORESTATION ACTIVITIES AND STATISTICS

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

This year reforestation comprised 6,700 seedlings planted on 17 acres in the Haines State Forest, and 22,500 on 62 acres on state lands on the Kenai Peninsula. Scarification was conducted on 115 acres of boreal sites to prepare ground for natural regeneration. On State lands in southeast Alaska, 167 acres were pre-commercial thinned. Thinning and pruning improves timber growth and also benefits wildlife habitat. Fairbanks area conducted regeneration surveys on 210 acres. Through federal cost-share assistance programs, the Division of Forestry supervised planting 20,120 seedlings on 34 acres of private forestlands. Alaska Native Corporations reported planting 213,000 seedlings on 1,000 acres. Alaska Native Corporations also reported thinning 3,681 acres, mostly by Sealaska Corporation. The Kenai Peninsula Borough conducted reforestation stocking survey of 2,500 acres of lands impacted by spruce beetle and subsequently reforested.

The Division of Forestry has been collecting and storing seed for over 25 years. Tree seed is cleaned and stored by the DNR Division of Agriculture. Tree seed collections are used for reforestation of state lands, and also sold for other reforestation operations. White spruce seed can be stored for over 20 years if properly treated. In 2007 approximately 6 bushels of paper birch cones were collected. Paper birch seed can used for direct seeding.

In 2007 the Division of Forestry participated in several reforestation research projects. A white spruce direct seeding trial in the Mat-Su was installed following a smaller previous trial. A research plantation was re-measured on the Willow Experimental Forest in cooperation with the University of Alaska and the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences. A white spruce seed upgrading project was continued in cooperation with the Division of Agriculture—Plant Materials Center.

Kenai Peninsula Reforestation Report. A 2007 reforestation report on a survey conducted by the DOF on lands exempted from the FRPA's reforestation standards had mixed but expected results. The 2004 survey took samples of approximately 35,000 acres of private and native lands exempted from the requirements due heavy mortality caused by the spruce bark beetle. Over 70% of the counted seedlings were white birch. Results indicate 58% of the lands meet the FRPA standards of 450 well distributed seedlings per acre or a combination of well distributed seedlings and unharvested residual trees. The remaining 42% of the land was harvested in nearly pure stands of dead spruce, leaving few residuals and lacking adjacent live trees to act as seed sources. While these lands averaged between 200 and 400 seedlings per acre, the seedlings were not well scattered which will more likely result in a more open woodland.

Location	seedlings planted	acres planted	acres scarified	acres thinned	acres stocking survey
Fairbanks	--	--	75	--	286
Mat-Su	--	--	25	--	--
Haines	6,700	17	--	46	--
Ketchikan	--	--	--	121	--
Kenai	22,500	62	15	--	--
Kenai Peninsula Borough	--	--	--	--	2500
Native Corporations	213,000	1,000	158	3,681	--
Individual private land	20,100	34	69	38	--
Total	**262,300**	**1,113**	**342**	**3,886**	**2,786**

FOREST HEALTH PROTECTION PROGRAM

2007 Highlights

Statewide Forest Damage Surveys

DOF's cooperative forest damage survey program with the USDA Forest Service continues to be a key component in the forest health protection strategy in Alaska, and includes both aerial and ground survey components. Aerial detection mapping is conducted annually to document the location and extent of active forest insect and disease damage. These surveys in southeast, southcentral, and interior Alaska were prioritized by an informal pre-season survey of state, private, and federal forest users, and covered about 30% of the approximately 127 million forested acres in the state. Approximately 38.3 million forested acres were surveyed in 2007. This marked a 16% increase in surveyed acres compared to 2006. In 2007, forest damage from insect, disease and select abiotic factors totaled approximately 1.2 million acres (Table 1) across state, federal and private forested areas of Alaska.

Emphasis in this report is given to damaging agents observed in 2007, primarily from forest insects, which are most easily mapped from characteristic host pest signatures during aerial surveys. More detailed information on the annual Alaska Forest Health Conditions Survey, also damage maps and past forest insect and disease Conditions reports are available at DOF's and USDA Forest Service's World Wide Web areas, listed at the end of this section. More information can be found by viewing the various web links for other categories of damage agents and forest health information: diseases and declines, abiotic agents and animal damage, invasive insects and plants, as well as the status of ongoing forest health research and operational projects, including non-native insects and disease monitoring work.

Readers need to be mindful that the 2007 forest damage mapping described here is not a complete survey of the over 127 million forested acres in Alaska. Aerial detection mapping data in particular are generally not taken by the same observer or from the same location each year and therefore any interpretation of trends should only be made in general terms (refer to "Aerial Survey" inset) – consult our staff if you have any questions about the source, collection protocols, or precision of the aerial survey data included in this 2007 forest health program overview. For easy reference to past forest damage trends, affected area (in thousands of acres) for each host group and forest damage type over the prior five years and a 10-year cumulative sum are included here (Table 2).

(The following text and tables on forest insect activity were summarized by Cynthia Snyder and Dustin Wittwer, in the report, Forest Health Conditions in Alaska – 2007, written by the USDA Forest Service, State and Private Forestry, Forest Health Protection, Region 10, Alaska, the DOF Forest Health Program staff and other forestry agency cooperators.)

Forest Insect Activity-Conditions in Brief

Hardwood defoliators continued to be the most significant functional group of insect pests in 2007. The amber-marked birch leaf miner, an invasive pest from Europe, affected urban areas and some native forests throughout much of south-central and interior Alaska. Although not detected aerially in 2007, amber-marked birch leaf miner damage has been previously noted along nearly 20%

Aerial Survey

Aerial detection surveys have traditionally been the primary tool for collecting and documenting the location and extent of many active insect infestations and some disease damage occurring in Alaska's forests. Most of the pest distribution descriptions that follow are based on aerial surveys.

Aerial detection survey, also known as "aerial sketch-mapping", is a remote sensing technique for observing forest change events from an aircraft and documenting those events manually onto a map base. Trained observers recognize and associate damage patterns, discoloration, tree species and other subtle clues that distinguish a particular type of forest damage from the surrounding, healthier forest areas. These clues serve as damage "signatures", which are often pest specific. However, a sketchmapper's abilities are challenged by time limitations and other external factors such as flight speed, altitude, and atmospheric conditions. Due to the nature of aerial surveys, the data collected provides only estimates of location and intensity for damage that is detectable from the air. Sketchmapping is considered an art as much as a science. No two sketchmappers will interpret and record an outbreak or pest signature in the same way but the essence of the event should be captured. While some data is ground checked, most of it is not. Because most of Alaska's rugged, unroaded terrain is largely inaccessible, often the only opportunity to verify the data on the ground is during the survey missions when there is an option to land and examine the affected foliage. Many of the most destructive diseases are not represented in aerial survey data because these agents are not detectable from an aerial view.

The surveys we conduct provide only a sampling of the forests via flight transects. Unlike many other areas in the United States, full 100% coverage of forested lands in Alaska is not possible. The short Alaska summers, vast area, high airplane rental costs, and short windows of time when pest damage signs and tree symptoms are most evident all require a strategy to efficiently cover the highest priority areas with available resources. Each year we survey approximately 25 percent of Alaska's 127 million forested acres. Due to survey priorities, client requests, known outbreaks and a number of logistical challenges some areas are rarely or never surveyed while other areas are surveyed annually. We are careful to avoid extrapolating conditions of surveyed acres to those not surveyed. The reported data should only be used as a partial indicator of insect and disease activity for a given year. Establishing trends from aerial survey data is possible, but care must be taken to ensure that projections are comparing the same areas and sources of variability are considered.

of the road system south of Livengood. The biological control program initiated in 2003, continued in 2007 with our partners from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Parasitism has been found in dissected larvae indicating that the parasitoid may have become established at one of the release sites. The largest outbreak of aspen leaf miner on record in Alaska has exceeded all previous years' acres of damage. In 2007, over 40,000 acres of large aspen tortrix defoliation were identified.

Nearly 92,000 acres of willow leaf blotch miner activity were recorded during the 2007 aerial surveys. This is the 15th year in a row that this insect has been observed – a period associated with large fluctuations of leaf blotch severity. Sunira in Katmai National Park was not observed in 2007. This follows a 38% drop in activity in 2006, the last record of the 7 year infestation.

Alder defoliation remains a concern in Alaska. A suite of insects are associated with alder defoliation in Alaska, including the woolly alder sawfly, a European invasive that is well established throughout the northern U.S. and Canada. Since the discovery of the European yellow underwing in Haines, Juneau, and St. Lazaria Island (near Sitka) in 2005, this non-native moth has spread throughout southeast Alaska as well as north and west to Anchorage in 2006. Based on the rapid movement of this species, it is likely to be found in the Mat-Su valley in the next year and will likely be in Fairbanks within three years.

Only 170 acres of birch leaf roller activity were observed during the survey this year. This represents a 95% decline from 2006 levels. However, low-level leaf roller populations are often difficult to ascertain during aerial surveys, and it is quite likely that the current cycle of leaf roller activity is considerably more extensive than it appears to be from the air. A substantial amount of leaf roller activity was observed at ground level as casual observations in Anchorage and on the Kenai Peninsula.

Spruce aphid defoliation in southeast Alaska occurred on approximately 3,400 acres scattered throughout southeast Alaska. In 2006, extremely low unseasonable temperature events occurred in southeast Alaska causing a collapse on the 8 year infestation. Spruce budworm was mapped on over 37,000 acres of the Interior, concentrated along the hills and ridges around Fairbanks.

Table 1. 2007 forest insect and disease activity as detected during aerial surveys in Alaska by land ownership[1] and agent[2]. All values are in acres.

Damage Agent	National Forest	Native Corp.	Other Federal	State & Private	Total Acres 2006
Alder defoliation[3]	-	770	7843	1426	10,039
Aspen defoliation[3]	-	-	-	246	246
Aspen Leaf Miner	-	145,587	112,303	497,504	755,393
Birch defoliation[3]	-	165	1,118	4	1,287
Birch leaf roller	-	-	171	-	171
Black-headed budworm	4,813	3,897	96	1,538	10,344
Cedar decline faders[4]	24,322	953	-	930	26,204
Cottonwood defoliation[3]	-	3,194	2,181	6,093	11,467
Hemlock Sawfly	-	-	-	131	131
Ips engraver beetle	53	11,799	16,777	4,182	32,811
Landslide/Avalanche	930	26	49	142	1,147
Large aspen tortrix	-	3,107	17,585	19,703	40,395
Spruce aphid	1,499	417	209	1,308	3,433
Spruce beetle	2,945	30,948	63,503	53,661	151,057
Spruce budworm	-	5,763	801	30,876	37,441
Spruce needle rust	-	-	110	867	977
Sub Alpine Fir Beetle	32	-	-	59	92
Willow defoliation[3]	-	35,484	30,321	26,870	92,676
Windthrow/Blowdown	164	77	176	9	425

1 Ownership derived from 2005 version of Land Status GIS coverage, State of Alaska, DNR/Land records Information Section. State & private lands include: state patented, tentatively approved, or other state acquired lands, and of patented disposed federal lands, municipal, or other private parcels.

2 Acre values are only relative to survey transects and do not represent the total possible area affected. Table entries do not include many of the most destructive diseases (e.g., wood decays and dwarf mistletoe) which are not detectable in aerial surveys. Damage acres from animals and abiotic agents are also not shown in this table.

3 Significant contributors include leaf miners and leaf rollers for the respective host. Drought stress also directly caused reduced foliation or premature foliage loss.

4 Acres represent only spots where current faders were noticed. Cumulative cedar decline acres can be found in Table X.

5 Acres recorded for willow defoliation are primarily from leaf miners. The affected acreage is much more extensive then can be mapped.

Ground surveys indicate that populations are still active and that the outbreak may continue to intensify.

Western black-headed budworm populations increased in 2007, with over 10,000 acres of defoliation mapped in Prince William Sound, southeast Alaska, and hemlock type on the Kenai Peninsula.

Larch sawfly defoliation decreased to just over 100 acres in 2007. The special aerial survey initiated in 2006 to document the extent of healthy stands of larch in Alaska, continued in 2007 covering a total of 8,106,933 acres over the two years. This survey found over 700,000 acres of healthy larch stands, with 11,000 acres outside the known range of larch.

Spruce beetle activity in Alaska has increased for the fourth time in the past 6 years, with over 151,000 acres were mapped in 2007. This makes spruce beetle once again the leading mortality agent of spruce in Alaska. More than 23,000 acres of activity were recorded along the Kuskokwim River between McGrath and Sleetmute including new movement of the beetle into the lower Holitna and Hoholitna Rivers. Although beetle activity declined by 60% of 2006 levels, to only 847 acres in the Lake Clark area, concern about growth of this infestation and movement into the vast and relatively untouched spruce forests surrounding Lake Clark is high. Spruce beetle activity on the Kenai Peninsula increased in 2007 to approximately 13,000 acres as beetles continue to move into previously uninfested stands. In the Municipality of Anchorage, new and growing infestations were recorded in the Girdwood Valley and along the east coast of Turnagain Arm toward the Portage Valley. In the Mat-Su Valley, infested area increased 43% to nearly 25,000 acres, with the largest single infestation along the Iditarod Trail from Skwentna to Rainy Pass. Widespread beetle activity was mapped along the Yukon River and its major tributaries from Eagle to Circle. These infestations are evenly distributed throughout the valley suggesting that this may eventually develop into a large-scale infestation.

2007 aerial surveys identified over 43,000 acres of engraver beetle damage statewide. Ips remains primarily a pest of interior spruce forests, generally in areas disturbed by erosion, harvest activities, or wind events, and in areas damaged by wildfire.

Table 2. Affected area (in thousands of acres) for each host group and damage type over the prior five years and a 10-year cumulative sum.

Host Group/Damage Type[1]	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Ten Year Cumulative[2]
Alder Defoliation[3]	1.8	2.8	10.5	17.3	10.6	10.0	59.3
Aspen Defoliation	301.9	351.4	591.5	678.9	509.5	796.0	2,826.2
Birch Defoliation	83.0	217.5	163.9	47.5	13.2	1.5	455.3
Cottonwood Defoliation	19.9	13.1	16.7	8.0	24.6	11.5	110.3
Hemlock Defoliation	1.4	0.2	0.5	0.2	0.0	0.1	17.1
Hemlock Mortality	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.6
Larch Defoliation	0.0	0.6	14.2	16.8	2.7	0.1	875.3
Larch Mortality	4.8	22.5	11.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	69.6
Spruce Defoliation	11.0	61.5	93.4	31.9	68.1	41.9	658.0
Spruce Mortality	53.6	92.8	145.2	93.8	130.6	183.9	2,041.7
Spruce/Hemlock Defoliation	3.4	15.1	1.5	1.4	1.5	10.3	80.1
Spruce/Larch Defoliation	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.3	2.8	0.0	3.8
Sub Alpine Fir Mortality	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.8	0.5	0.1	1.7
Willow Defoliation	0.3	83.9	111.2	44.5	50.7	92.7	623.3
Total damage acres (thousands)	**481.5**	**861.7**	**1160.5**	**941.5**	**814.8**	**1148.1**	**7,822.30**
Total acres surveyed *(Note: acres in millions for these figs)*	24,001.0	25,588.0	36,343.0	39,206.0	32,991.0	38,365.0	
% of acres surveyed showing damage	2.0	3.4	3.2	2.4	2.5	3.0	

1 Summaries identify damage, mostly from insect agents. Foliar disease agents contribute to the spruce defoliation and hemlock mortality totals. Damage agents such as fire, wind, flooding, slides and animal damage are not included. Cedar mortality is summarized in Table X.
2 The same stand can have active infestation for several years. The cumulative total is a union of all areas from 1996 through 2005 and does not double count acres.
3 This total includes defoliation on alder from alder canker, drought and insects.

Invasive Insects Early Warning System

(The following text was contributed by Roger Burnside, AKDNR Division of Forestry, Curtis Knight, AKDNR Division of Agriculture, and Mark Schultz, USDA Forest Service, State & Private Forestry, Forest Health Protection, Juneau. The projects described below are a result of several joint efforts between the Division of Forestry, Division of Agriculture, USFS entomologists and other agency forest health staff too numerous to mention).

Agency officials and forest health proponents in Alaska have had concerns for several years about risks associated with exporting our native species to other countries as well as keeping exotic insects and other arthropod species out of Alaska. Introductions of exotic invasive insects have resulted in substantial control expenditures in the United States. Alaska's uniqueness in terms of its size and remoteness, presents a particular challenge when conducting statewide surveys. The geographic isolation and limited transportation corridors have been thought to provide some degree of protection to Alaska ecosystems. However, increasing tourism, international trade, and climate warming work to elevate the risk to forested ecosystems from introductions of exotic insects (refer to Table "Invasive insects either currently present in or thought to be coming to Alaska").

Until recently, the risks of potentially damaging introductions of exotic insects and arthropods had been deemed minimal for Alaska. However, current climate warming trends and recent data that support continued increases in tourism and international trade to Alaska seem to be working to elevate the risk to forested ecosystems from exotic insect and arthropod introductions. It's widely accepted that the most effective and lowest cost defense against exotic species introductions is to have an effective monitoring system designed to detect introductions early and allow cost effective rapid response control actions. The recent Asian long-horned beetle (Anoplophora glabripennis) and emerald ash borer (Agrilus planipennis) introductions in the Lower 48 are two examples that have potentially devastating effects for native ecosystems and have resulted in control efforts costing tens of millions of dollars. Introduction of the European spruce beetle, Ips typographus, into Alaska could be similarly damaging should this tree-killing bark beetle establish here. These examples have amplified the concerns, and efforts, by the Alaska forest health staff and cooperators to help ensure that effective monitoring systems are in place that will allow cost effective and rapid response control actions against potential forest invaders.

Invasive Insects Either Currently Present In or Thought To Be Coming to Alaska

(source: USFS "Forest Health Conditions in Alaska-2006", Forest Service AK Region Report R10-PR-11, April 2007, p. 22)

Invasive insects

Common name	Scientific name	Present in AK?	Invasive ranking
Pine moth	Dendrolimus pini (L)No	High	
European spruce beetle	Ips typographus L.	No	High
Asian gypsy moth	Lymantria dispar L.	No	High
Nun moth	Lymantria monacha (L.)	No	High
Western and forest tent caterpillars	Malacosoma californicum (Packard) and Malacosoma disstria (Hübner)	No	High
Larch sawfly	Pristiphora erichsonii (Hartig)	Yes	High
Amber-marked birch leafminer	Profenusa thomsoni (Konow)	Yes	High
Brown spruce longhorn beetle	Tetropium fuscum (F.)	No	High
Woolly spruce aphid	Adelges abietis (L.)	No	Moderate
Hemlock woolly adelgid	Adelges tsugae Annand	No	Moderate
Asian longhorned beetle	Anoplophora glabripennis (Motschulsky)	No	Moderate
Larch casebearer	Coleophora laricella (Hübner)	No	Moderate
Spruce aphid	Elatobium abietinum (Walker)	Yes	Moderate
Birch leafroller	Epinotia solandriana L.	Yes	Moderate
Birch leafminer	Fenusa pusilla (Lepeletier)	Yes	Moderate
Larch engraver	Ips cembrae (Heer)	No	Moderate
European gypsy moth	Lymantria dispar (L.)	No	Moderate
Sitka spruce weevil	Pissodes strobe (Peck)	Yes	Moderate
Eastern spruce gall aphid	Adelges piceae (Ratzburg)	Yes	Low
Uglynest caterpillar	Archips cerasivorana (Fitch)	Yes	Low
Woolly alder sawfly	Eriocampa ovata (L.)	Yes	Low
European alder sawfly	Hemichroa crocera (Fourcroy)	No	Low
Birch-edge leafminer	Heterarthrus nemoratus (Fallen)	Yes	Low
Currantworm	Nematus ribesii (Scopoli)	Yes	Low
Strawberry root weevil	Otiorhynchus ovatus (L.)	Yes	Low
European pine shoot moth	Rhyacionia buoliana (Schiffermüller)	No	Low

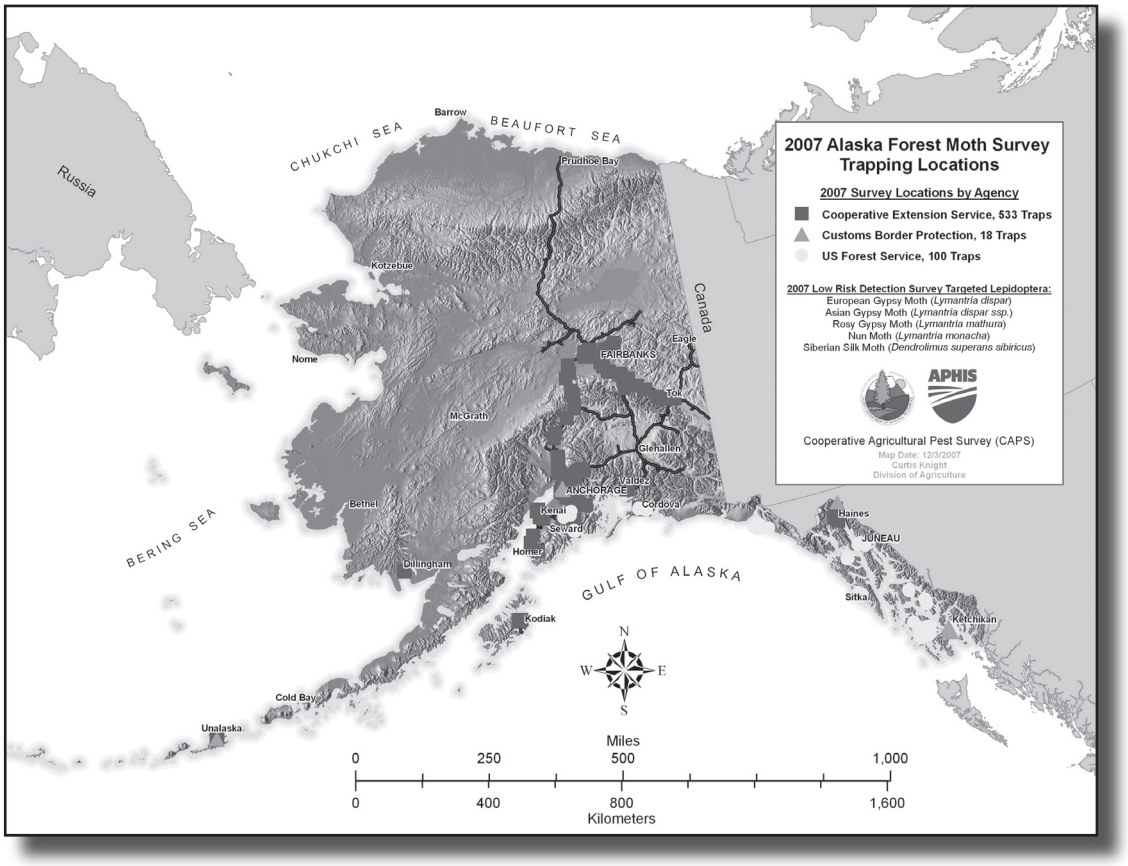
Early Detection & Rapid Response for Detection of Exotic Bark Beetles & Wood Borers

DOF Forest Health Program staff and the USDA Forest Service have maintained Early Detection/Rapid Response (EDRR) monitoring sites at Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau and a few key South-east Alaska port locations to detect potentially invasive exotic bark and wood boring insects since 2002. Monitoring sites were also established in Fairbanks and Tok at the fringes of recent (2004) burned areas to detect wood wasps and other species that are most attracted to these disturbed sites. The Alaska Invasive Insect Monitoring project is being used to determine background information on native bark beetles and borers, assess diversity, and evaluate the efficacy of various beetle attractant compounds and exotic beetle pheromones on native beetles. Forest Health Protection staff from the state and federal governments and University of Alaska Cooperative Extension Service are also participating in the Western Plant Diagnostic Network effort to coordinate an "early detection and warning" system for identifying potentially damaging plant and insect agents into Alaska.

In Juneau in 2006 a peak flight of both scolytids and cerambycids occurred in the middle of May. Flights were bimodal; the second flight occurring in August for scolytids (one location) and June for cerambycids (two locations). The Juneau International Airport (JIA) location was as much as 8 °C warmer than the Government Services Administration (GSA) location, across from the downtown location of Alaska Marine Lines. Temperature alone seemed to explain the number of coleopterans caught. Elution rate of ethanol was highest for the warmest days. Elution was the greatest for the middle of June. However, the greater catch of scolytids and cerambycids at the GSA site may be related to the distance that these lures were from emerging beetles. For the 2007 trapping, in which three types of lure combinations were used, a turpentine/ethanol combination in sponge type release devices attached to a large vane type trap (Sante trap- don't we need to cite trap vendor/developer if this is a patented trapping device?), caught more and a greater diversity of beetles by a factor of 10. In 2008, "early warning system" monitoring for targeted exotic (non-native) bark beetles and wood borers will be expanded at Anchorage, Juneau and selected sites on the Kenai Peninsula and in the Interior. Risk assessments already completed for exotic beetles with potential to cause significant damage to Alaska's forest ecosystems will be evaluated and used as part of the 2008 EDRR monitoring trapping protocols.

Exotic Forest Moth Detection Surveys

Alaska has maintained a detection monitoring system focused on the gypsy moth (Lymantria dispar), a serious defoliator of hardwoods, since 1983. Historically, only the European Gypsy Moth has been captured in Alaska. Larvae were found in Juneau in 1985 on lawn furniture shipped from the east coast. Adult moths were captured in traps in 1987 in Anchorage and in 1992, 1999, 2004, and 2006 in the Fairbanks area. All adult moth captures in Alaska have been single moth detections. Both the European



Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Agriculture, Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS), 2007 Forest Moth Survey Data

and Asian gypsy moths are of concern to Alaska. To address this concern, annual gypsy moth trapping has, and continues to be, conducted in cooperation with the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) in several locations across Alaska.

Since the early 2000s additional exotic forest moths have been added to the annual detection monitoring effort (refer to 2007 exotic forest insect monitoring locations).

The Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Agriculture, in cooperation with APHIS-PPQ, conducted low risk detection surveys for European (North American) Gypsy Moth (Lymantria dispar), Asian Gypsy Moth (Lymantria dispar ssp.), Rosy Gypsy Moth (Lymantria mathura), Nun Moth (Lymantria monacha), and Siberian Silk Moth (Dendrolimus superans sibiricus) in 2007. If introduced, these species would pose a significant threat to Alaska's forested ecosystems from both an economic and biological perspective and are closely regulated and monitored by APHIS-PPQ and state agricultural agencies. During 2007, over 700 Lepidoptera monitoring traps were deployed, involving 27 survey participants from Cooperative Extension Service, Customs Border Protection, and the U.S. Forest Service. Survey data is currently being tallied and processed for entry into the National Agricultural Pest Information System (NAPIS) database and the agricultural pest tracking database of APHIS-PPQ's Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS). No target moths were reported being captured for 2007.

There were, however, several incidental captures and reports of non-targeted species. For example, two geometrid male moths, presumably White Spring Moth (Lomographa vestaliata), were captured in a Rosy Gypsy Moth trap in Juneau. Also captured in Juneau was a European Yellow Underwing (Noctua pronuba). These specimens were sent to the U.S. Forest Service Entomologist in Fairbanks for confirmation. Two European Yellow Underwing moths were also caught in a Rosy Gypsy Moth trap in Wrangell, Alaska.

During 2007, the Alaska Division of Agriculture implemented a new database for transferring and managing forest moth data collected from around the state. The database can be utilized by all survey participants and allows for easy data transmission via small text files that can be sent electronically. The text files can then be imported into a main database that can then be processed for national database entry. Having a standardized survey database ensures data quality, timeliness in data reporting from field offices, efficiency in data entry, and reduces (but does not eliminate) the need to train individuals on its use because of its simplicity.

Pinewood Nematode/White-spotted Sawyer Surveys

The pinewood nematode (PWN) is a major concern in China, which has imposed mandatory wood fumigation requirements for all round-log shipments from North America since 2002. The presence of PWN would also restrict export of Alaskan wood to other countries which make coordination of "early detection and warning" systems an essential component for surveys of plant shipments both in and out of Alaska. To date, PWN has not been found during export phytosanitary inspections routinely done since 1999, in addition to three years of field surveys and monitoring trap sampling in the coastal wood production areas of south-central and south-east Alaska. The coastal Alaska field surveys also concentrated on verifying the presence of the PWN's normal insect vector, the white spotted sawyer (Monochamus scutellatus). The white spotted sawyer is relatively common in Alaska's inland spruce forests, throughout south-central and interior Alaska, but was not found during the 2003 or 2004 intensive sampling efforts in coastal Alaska's spruce, hemlock and pine forests.

Since the pathogenic form of PWN requires a Monochamus wood borer vector for transport between susceptible trees, evidenced by rapid foliage wilting from occlusion of the trees' xylem vessels by nematodes, surveys were extended to interior Alaska spruce forests where the wood borer vector is present. The initial scoping survey was begun in 2005 to verify the normal distribution range of the white spotted sawyer, locate target sampling sites and suitable aged material (wood borer has a 2-year life cycle), to more definitively establish presence/absence of PWN across the historical range of its Monochamus vector. The 2005 work confirmed that PWN was not present in flown beetles, including a limited sample of excised late stage larvae and new adults from two sites visited. Survey and sampling continued in 2006 and 2007 to locate additional target sites (recent harvest and burn areas), assess wood borer populations in infested material, rear adult wood borers and dissect newly-emerged beetles for nematodes. In 2006, larval nematodes were found in the breathing tubes of 10% of newly-emerged M. scutellatus adults, which were then reared to Nema adults, and tentatively identified by nematode taxonomists as a non-pathogenic mucronate ("m") form of Bursaphelenchus xylophilus. Since characteristic wilting symptoms have not been observed at any of the forest sites already surveyed for Monochamus scutellatus and PWN since 2003, these results have somewhat confirmed the absence of PWN in Alaska.

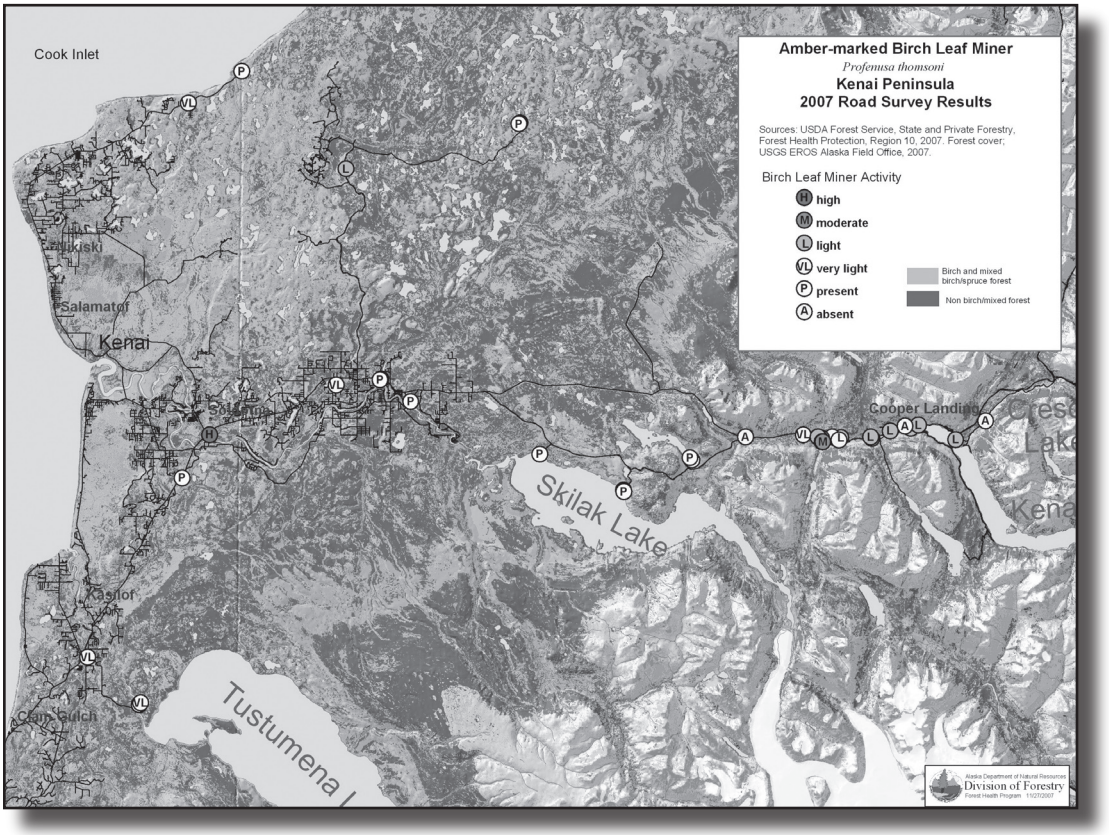
A project was started in 2007 and is planned to continue in 2008 to collect additional nematodes to cross-analyze the Alaska m-form nematodes with known PWN genetic material to, hopefully, more definitively characterize the Alaska nematodes and determine the role of these nematodes in the Alaska spruce ecosystem. Presence/absence and frequency of Bursaphelenchus nemas in the sapwood of Monochamus infested spruce and also sapwood moisture levels (e.g., wet/dry-wood ratios) in fire killed/injured spruce could give clues about nematode survival in both the vector and host. Other as yet undetermined factors may also limit survival of this wood borer-vectored nematode in the boreal forest areas. Information gained from this work could also help the Alaska Division of Agriculture put in place more workable phytosanitary inspection protocols for the export of Alaskan wood to China that would not involve mandatory fumigation of all log export shipments.

Update on Amber-Marked Birch Leafminer Biological Control Program

The recent introduction of the amber-marked birch leaf miner (Profenusa thomsoni) serves to highlight the increasing risk to Alaskan forests from exotic forest pests and emphasizes the need to further develop an early warning system with a wider scope for detecting introductions. In 2003, a cooperative birch leafminer biological control program was started in Anchorage using the parasitoid, Lathrolestes spp. (Hymenoptera: Ichneumonidae). Participating agencies include: USDA Forest Service, Canadian Forestry Service, University of Alberta, University of Massachusetts, USDA APHIS, State of Alaska Division of Forestry, and the Municipality of Anchorage. To date, a total of 2,729 individuals of the amber-marked birch leaf miner parasitoid (Lathrolestes sp.), either reared locally from host larvae collected in Canada or imported as adult wasps have been released: 53 in 2004, 158 in 2005, 458 in 2006, and 2070 in 2007. In 2007, in addition to further releases in Anchorage, releases were made near Fairbanks and on the Kenai Peninsula. The first evidence of establishment was obtained through the recovery of two females from an Anchorage release site this year; however, further monitoring is necessary and will continue in 2008. Dissections of amber-marked birch leaf miner larvae in and around Anchorage have detected widespread parasitism. However, the identity of this parasitoid species has yet to be determined. Plans for 2008 call for further importations and releases, monitoring of impact in Anchorage, and sampling to obtain identifications of existing parasitoids.

Until L. luteolator numbers increase to where it becomes an efficient biological control agent, birch leaf miner populations will continue to spread unchecked throughout many parts of south-central and interior Alaska's birch forests. Roadside ground surveys conducted by the U.S. Forest Service entomologists through 2006 had confirmed only a limited spread along the main road corridors out of Anchorage into native birch forests. Movement of the leaf miner is thought to have been primarily by "hitchhiking" on or in vehicles. However, 2007 ground surveys, focused on the Kenai Peninsula (see map), suggest that some of the new "infestations" have established and may be expanding into native forest off the main road system and vehicle parking areas. The Forest Service is currently developing an integrated pest management program for the amber-marked birch leaf miner to examine the dynamics of tree-to-tree spread and intensification, predictions of spatial patterns across urban areas using spatial modeling and remote sensing, the effects on the general health of birch trees, description of native parasitoids associated with the amber-marked birch leaf miner, and others.

Birch Leaf Miner impacts to urban trees include decreased aesthetic values and the high cost of applying pesticides. Thousands of dollars each year are spent on pesticides to control P. thomsoni. The larvae of this insect eat the inside of leaves between the epidermal layers, causing leaves to die and entire urban landscapes to turn brown. Affected trees are obvious and our stakeholders commonly enquire about the damage. Mortality of affected trees after several years of continuous infestation may be possible, but has not yet been proven.



Amber-marked Birch Leaf Miner on the Kenai Peninsula in 2007.

Effects of Spruce Budworm Defoliation on White Spruce Regeneration in Interior Alaska

DOF's Forest Health Program, in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service, conducted the third and final year of a study to evaluate the effects of spruce budworm (Choristoneura fumiferana) defoliation on 3-5 year old white spruce seedlings in clearcut harvest units during a budworm outbreak in the Tanana Valley State Forest near Fairbanks. Project objectives are to: (1) evaluate the efficacy of spruce budworm larvae in outbreak conditions as a mortality agent of white spruce regeneration, and (2) quantify the effects of spruce budworm damage on white spruce regeneration. Spruce budworm larval damage to spruce seedlings was very small at the time of the Fall 2007 data collection, likely due to the increased height of the competing vegetation during the three years that the project was conducted. It is hypothesized that the success of budworm adults in finding spruce seedlings on which to lay eggs was reduced because of the sheltering affect the competing vegetation provided to the spruce seedlings. The small amount of damage to spruce seedlings by budworm larvae during the peak of the budworm outbreak resulted in the termination of the project in 2007. To date, no seedling mortality has been attributed directed to spruce budworm. Based on project results, forest managers do not need to alter their reforestation schedules out of concern that spruce budworm mortality will have a significant impact on white spruce regeneration in clearcuts. Analysis of the data and writing of the final report remain to be completed.

Larch sawfly defoliation, larch beetle and interior healthy larch survey In September 2006, a special aerial survey was initiated in order to update the mapped distribution of larch in Alaska, and document the extent of healthy larch stands. A "healthy larch" survey was conducted since mortality of larch had been documented to reach 80% in most stands impacted from the late 1990s sawfly outbreak, and concerns were expressed that the extent of the mortality could necessitate genetic conservation measures. Including additional areas surveyed during mid-September 2007, a combined total of 8,106,933 acres were mapped with 709,836 acres (approximately 9%) containing stands with healthy larch. Outside the known range of larch, roughly 11,000 acres containing healthy larch were identified. General conclusions from this special larch survey are that (1) a genetic conservation plan for larch in Alaska is probably not necessary at this time and (2) modeling of healthy larch stands may allow for additional refinement of the distribution map of larch in interior Alaska.

Questions remain about the regeneration potential of existing "healthy" stands because the established trees may be too small (young) to produce cones. Data collected from a 2007 re-evaluation of ground plots established within the Innoko Wildlife Refuge (west of McGrath) during the recent sawfly outbreak strongly suggest that larch regeneration following larch sawfly defoliation and subsequent larch beetle attacks is most related to stand succession stage; that is, vigorous regeneration is more likely on sites impacted by a sudden, stand replacement-type of disturbance, but not necessarily as a result of extensive insect defoliation. A preliminary look at the Innoko plot data confirms what is commonly known: that larch is an early-succession, or pioneer, species following fire, ice scouring, or other more sudden disturbances on the landscape. Over the next couple of years, forest health specialists plan to analyze the 1999-2007 Innoko River plot data and include additional larch plots across a broader area of the known extent of larch in the Alaska interior. Target stands will be identified from past aerial pest detection surveys and larch stand modeling work to evaluate regeneration success. Also, larch stand mortality factors (e.g., larch beetle, sawfly-defoliation, and other stand variables) will be evaluated in areas impacted by the extensive 1990s-early 2000s sawfly outbreak.

Insect & Disease Information

For more detailed information on the 2007 Forest Health Conditions report, past Forest Health Conditions reports (in Adobe .pdf format) and forest insect surveys, and links to other forest health web sites, see also the Division of Forestry's Forest Health Program web area: http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/forestry/insects/surveys.htm

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 can also be found at the USDA Forest Service, Alaska Region Home Page: http://www.fs.fed.us/r10/spf/fhp/ A complete set of the forest pest damage maps from the 2007 aerial surveys, prepared by DOF, is also posted there (see "Map Data and Products" link at the top of the web page).

Questions pertaining to overall coordination of DOF's Statewide Forest Health programs and activities on state and private lands should be directed to:

Roger Burnside, Forest Entomologist
roger.burnside@alaska.gov
State of AK, Dept. of Natural Resources
Div. of Forestry, State Office
550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1450
Anchorage, AK 99501-3566 USA
(907) 269-8460; fax: 907-269-8931

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

Hans Buchholdt, Cartographer/GIS Specialist
hans.buchholdt@alaska.gov
(907) 269-8463; fax: (907) 269-8931

FOREST STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

The purpose of the Forest Stewardship Program is to provide private landowners with information for making decisions about forest resources. At the request of landowners, Division staff prepares Forest Stewardship plans which include field reconnaissance and the best available forest resources information. Alaska Native Corporations are provided grants for resource professionals to prepare Forest Stewardship plans. Limited financial assistance is available for implementation of projects consistent with Forest Stewardship plans and best management practices. The Forest Stewardship Program is a federally funded program administered by the Division of Forestry.

2007 Highlights

- 5 Alaska Native Corporations completed a Forest Stewardship Plan for their land, and 2 Alaska Native Corporations were awarded grants to prepare Forest Stewardship plans.
- Forest Stewardship plans were prepared for and signed by 53 individual Alaska forest landowners.
- Wildfire fuel reduction projects were completed by 77 Alaska homeowners.
- Through funding provided by cost-share programs, 1,502 acres of private land received forestry treatment.
- Division of Forestry GIS specialist, Hans Buchholdt, received an award for best technical presentation at the National Spatial Analysis Summit.

Planning by Alaska Native Corporations

Native corporations are the largest private landowners in Alaska, and providing grants to Alaska Native Corporations for forest planning is an important part of the Forest Stewardship Program. In 2007 Forest Stewardship plans were completed by 5 Alaska Native Corporations, covering 306,578 forested acres. Plans were for Sealaska—Beaver Creek and Deer Bay; Leisnoi Inc.; Sealaska—Big Salt; Maserquliq, Inc.; and Afognak Native Corporation. Regeneration, stand improvement, forest road maintenance, cultural sites, and wildlife habitat were important elements of the plans. Forest Stewardship planning grants were approved for 2 ANCSA corporations covering 130,200 acres and obligating $54,000. Grantees were Sealaska for Kake unit and Cape Fox Corporation.

Planning by Individual Landowners

For private lands in individual ownership, 53 Forest Stewardship plans were prepared and signed by landowners covering 1,164 forested acres.

Since the program began in 1992, a total of 714 plans were prepared and signed by 714 landowners covering 41,212 forested acres. Participation is greatest on the Kenai Peninsula with the Matanuska-Sustina Borough and Tanana Valley also having many participants. Private landowner assistance on the Kenai Peninsula was aided by funding from the Kenai Peninsula Borough Spruce Beetle Program. The most common management objective is reforestation after spruce beetle kill. Many participating landowners have strong interest in aesthetics and wildlife. Defensible space from wildfire is a growing concern.

Clint Homestead, Pioneer Peak Crew, Mat-Su Area. Photo by Mat-Su tech.

Cost-Share Assistance

The Forest Land Enhancement Program (FLEP) was established by Congress in 2002 and implementation began in summer of 2003. By the end of 2007, $1,812,835 has been obligated for cost-share contracts, $272,446 had been returned from non-completed projects, and $900,255 has paid for completed projects. In 2007, FLEP contracts were approved for 31 landowners obligating $257,714. For Alaska Native Corporations, 4 received FLEP contracts. In 2007, 30 FLEP projects were completed covering 1,502 acres paying $304,702. Of this, 5 completed contracts were with Alaska Native Corporations. Completed FLEP practices in FY07 were: 13 regeneration, 7 stand improvement, 8 wildfire fuel reduction, 1 roads, and 1 wildlife. The acreage of completed practices were: 936 regeneration, 49 fuel reduction, 504 stand improvement, 10 roads, and 3 wildlife.

Forest Stewardship Program continued to implement components of the National Fire Plan (NFP). Stewardship personnel do home inspections, prepare written defensible space plans, and administer cost-share grant agreements. Cost-share funding has come from several federal funding sources. Practices are primarily wildfire fuels reduction adjacent to homes in the wildland urban interface. In 2007, 95 home inspections, plans, and cost-share agreements were prepared, and $133,406 was obligated. Of this 39 had Forest Stewardship plans prepared, and 73 had other forest management plans covering 81 acres. Final inspections were performed for 77 homeowners paying $111,473 and covering approximately 70 acres.

Spatial Analysis Project

Division of Forestry completed mapping private lands and classifying for forest resource priority. The final Alaska GIS map received an award for best technical presentation at the National Spatial Analyisis Summit. Hans Buchholdt prepared the map.

Forest Stewardship Plan Monitoring

Forest Stewardship plan monitoring will be required under new federal National Standards and Guidelines. Plan monitoring was begun using a Southeast ANCSA corporation as a pilot. Plan monitoring will be a major effort during the upcoming year.

Other Public Services

The 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. The Forest Stewardship Program also provided site visits and referrals for numerous landowners who did not pursue a written plan. Forest Stewardship Staff for 2007 were:

Jeff Graham, Palmer
Al Peterson, Soldotna
Kathryn Pyne, Fairbanks
Stan Vlahovich, Palmer
Lois Bettini, Homer

Forest Stewardship Committee

The Division of Forestry receives guidance from the Forest Stewardship Committee. The committee is comprised of representatives from a broad range of Alaska private landowner interests. Areas of discussion include grant and cost-share rates, eligibility criteria, and Forest Stewardship plan requirements. The committee met twice in 2007. Important topics of consideration in 2007 were Forest Legacy Program proposed parcels for forest conservation and revised standards for Forest Stewardship Plans to include GIS products. Stewardship Committee members are listed on page 67.

Pioneer Peak Crew, Lower 48 Assignment. Photo by Mat-Su Tech.

NATURAL RESOURCES EDUCATION PROGRAM

2007 was a record year in several key measures

- Number of educator workshops
- Number of educators trained
- Number of DNR volunteers participating in education activities
- Cooperation from other state and federal partners toward mutual public education goals

The Division of Forestry's education programs serve a wide variety of audiences and take many forms. Two workshops are offered for university credit. Project Learning Tree, proudly sponsored by the Division of Forestry in Alaska since 1991, is a workshop that highlights the advantages of employing curricula that use nature to educate children. Information about trees, water, wildlife, ways we depend on forest resources, and how these are all tied together help educators to bring the forest into their classrooms. Teachers, home schooling parents, scout leaders, interpreters, and others attended 12 Project Learning workshops in 2007 in communities stretching from Juneau and Yakutat to Homer and Fairbanks. In all, 201 participants graduated from Project Learning Tree classes in Alaska during 2007.

Mary McBurney (NPS) and Emily Binnian (DNR volunteer) practice PLT's "Looking at Leaves" in Denali. Photo by Matt Weaver.

Fire in Alaska, our second flagship course, provides educators with exciting and interactive curriculum that highlights Alaska forest ecology, fire behavior, and living safely and responsibly in the areas where forested lands and the human built environment come together. The Division of Forestry sponsored its first Fire in Alaska course in Homer in 2001. This past year, 10 workshops were conducted around the state training 141 participants. Education centered around prevention is a key component of the Division of Forestry's multi-pronged approach to managing fire in Alaska.

Cooperation with other agencies that have similar goals is a key reason for the success of the Division of Forestry's education programs. In 2007, the National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, BLM, and U.S. Forest Service all contributed personnel

Soldotna Fire teachers 9/07. Photo by Matt Weaver.

and logistical support for various natural resource education activities. Several agency folks participated in a week long training, courtesy of Denali National Park, that enables them to facilitate Project Learning Tree workshops where they live and work. This cooperative effort has yielded trained facilitators based from Kotzebue to Ketchikan.

Another terrific partnership with the University of Alaska-Fairbanks and Alaska Pacific University allowed us to train all of the interns in the School of Education for the sixth year in a row.

Besides teacher training, Forestry education retains a strong commitment to working directly with Alaskan children. Tapping Into Spring, our third grade educational initiative, worked in six different classrooms in 2007 in Anchorage and Mat-Su. This two-day program teaches children about the importance of trees, tree structure, and tree biology. Fun, engaging, and inspiring are all words teachers and kids use to describe "Tapping into Spring". We also team taught in many Southcentral classrooms on topics from tree identification to wildland fire management.

Due to a dedicated core of trained teachers, a supportive environment for education within the Division, continuing affirmation in terms of successful grant funding, and powerful synergy from cooperating agencies, the future of the Division of Forestry's education programs looks very bright indeed.

UAF students practicing PLT's "Every Tree for Itself". Photo by Mel Sikes.

ALASKA COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROGRAM

The Community Forestry Program:

- Helps communities manage their trees and forests.
- Provides information, training, and technical assistance to local governments, tree care professionals, businesses, and volunteers.
- Supports projects that demonstrate good arboricultural and urban forestry practices.
- Administers federally funded grants for community forest management, pilot programs, and demonstrations of best practices.
- Fosters partnerships between government, business, nonprofits, and volunteers.

2007 Highlights

- Anchorage was named a Tree City USA for the first time in 2006, meeting a long-time goal of the division. Six other cities were recertified--Wasilla, Sitka, Juneau, Fort Wainwright, and Eielson and Elmendorf air force bases.
- Three electric utilities--Chugach, Golden Valley, and Matanuska were recertified as Tree Lines USA.
- There are now 40 certified arborists in the state, a record high number.
- 392 volunteers donated 1,547 hours on community forestry projects in Alaska this year.

Community Assistance

- Provided financial or technical assistance to 20 communities from Metlakatla to Fairbanks, and 36 technical assists to local governments, agencies, and businesses.
- Granted a total of $16,050 to 11 communities, which provided $52,762 in local matches.
- Met with officials and/or citizens in communities without community forestry programs (Soldotna, Kenai, Seward, Ketchikan, and Hoonah) to provide information and support in establishing programs.
- Homer Soil & Water Conservation District completed a trail guide and revisions to the Homer Demonstration Forest Management Plan funded by a 2004 Community Forestry grant.

Education & Training

- Provided training for 1,036 people for a total of 1,939 seat hours. Most were employees or volunteers engaged in managing public trees.
- Gave scholarships to two Sitka Parks Department employees and the Wasilla Parks arborist to attend the 40-hour Municipal Foresters Institute.
- Paid for one local government employee to take the ISA Arborist Certification Exam and for a year's membership in ISA.
- Held a workshop, Roots Where Tree Planting Begins, in Fairbanks, Anchorage, and Juneau.
- Staff assisted the UAF Cooperative Extension Service in revising the very popular publication, Landscape Plants for Alaska to be reprinted in 2008.

Citizen Advisory and Advocacy Organizations

- Anchorage TREErific completed tree planting and bought maintenance equipment with funds from a $15,000 Anchorage Parks Foundation grant. TREErific also sponsored monthly educational presentations or field trips and maintained plantings done in past years.
- Fairbanks Arbor Day Committee sponsored or supported over 20 Arbor Day tree plantings and celebrations in Fairbanks, Ester, North Pole, Ft. Wainwright, Anderson, and other locations in the borough.
- Juneau Urban Forestry Partnership sponsored a big Arbor Day event and kicked off a volunteer appreciation effort in which volunteers get tee-shirts of varying colors depending on how many JUFP events they have attended. The shirts' message is "Juneau + Trees = Community."
- Sitka Tree and Landscape Committee mailed 4,000 copies of the brochures Plant the Right Tree in the Right Place and Plant a Tree to utility customers, and oversaw the replacement of street trees along Sitka's main thoroughfare, which received extensive publicity and support.
- Alaska Community Forest Council continued to advise the division on program priorities, activities, and grants. In addition to supporting the state program, members are valuable partners in local community forestry efforts. A list of council member names is on page 67.

Forest Service Grant Awarded

The U.S. Forest Service announced in November that the Alaska Community Program will receive one of the first competitive grants offered under its redesigned funding program. The successful proposal, Maximizing Forest Benefits for Alaskans, was awarded $112,853 to develop a comprehensive natural resource inventory and management plan for the Municipality of Anchorage. This will be the first inventory and plan for public forested land and trees along streets and around public facilities in a city rich with natural resources. Within the municipality's 1,955 square miles are 10,000 acres of city park land, greenbelts, and riparian areas that are important to the quality of life for human residents as well as the abundant wildlife within the city. In addition, Anchorage borders a national forest, state park, coastal wildlife refuge, and military land where protecting and managing natural resources is also a high priority. The project, in cooperation with the Municipal Parks Department, will begin in 2008.

2007 Grants

Alaska Reforestation Council/ Fairbanks Arbor Day Committee	$500
Alaska Vocational Technical Center, Seward	$2,200
Anchorage Parks Foundation/Mun. of Anchorage	$500
Boy Scout Troop 387, Palmer	$500
Chitina Traditional Indian Village Council	$1,200
Homer Soil & Water Conservation District	$2,000
City of Hoonah	$900
Juneau Urban Forestry Partnership	$2,650
Metlakatla Indian Community	$1,600
City & Borough of Sitka	$2,000
City of Wasilla	$2,000

WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT

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

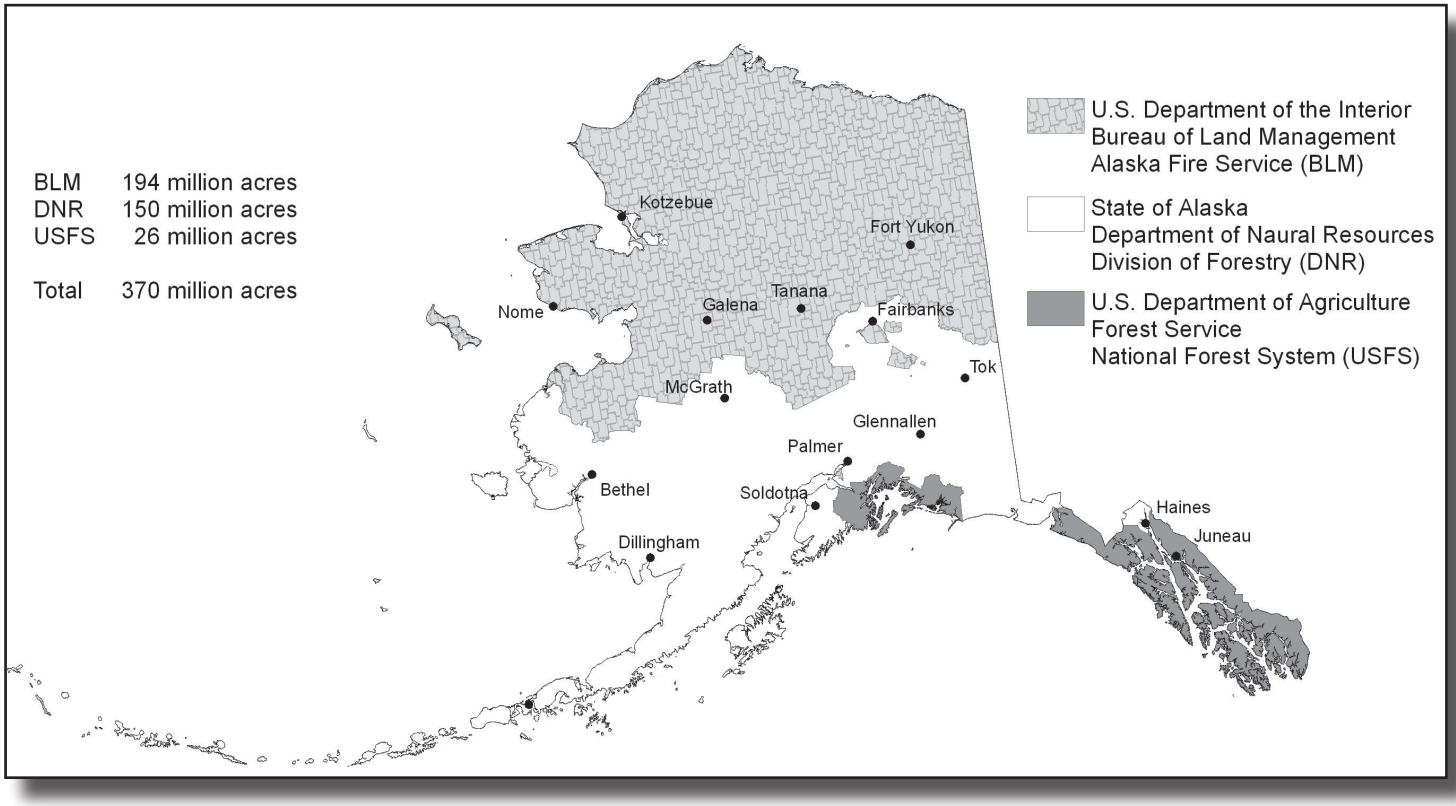
Modified Action

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.

Alaska Wildland Fire Protection Areas



2007 FIRE SEASON

After the record setting fire seasons of 2004 and 2005, Alaska has now experienced consecutive seasons of below average activity. As in 2006, the total number of burned acres in 2007, 649,411, was well below the 10-year average. However, in a bit of an anomaly, the total number of fires, 509, was slightly above that same 10-year average. Although few of these fires developed into major problems, 2007 was not without significant challenges and notable occurrences.

All seemed to be quiet for much of the 2007 spring and early summer. Then, on June 19, following a trend of recent problem fires on the Kenai Peninsula, the human caused Caribou Hills fire started near Homer in an area dotted with numerous recreational cabins. By the end of the second burning period, weather conditions had pushed the fire to 4,000 acres and beyond the capabilities of local initial attack forces, prompting the mobilization of Alaska's type 2 Incident Management Team. On June 20, as firefighters continued suppression actions on the Kenai Peninsula, lightning activity in the Susitna Valley ignited the Su River fire and the division mobilized a Type 2 Incident Management team for the second consecutive day.

Simultaneous problem fires in Alaska usually produce acute resource shortages and this was no exception. For the next several days, fire managers constantly prioritized the allocation of extremely limited aviation assets and Type 1 crews between the Caribou Hills and Su River fires. Alaska turned to the western U.S. for 10 additional hotshot crews, 40 smokejumpers, 71 fire specialists and 3 helicopters. In an ongoing resource exchange agreement with western Canada, referred to as the Northwest Compact, the Division utilized 2 air tankers, a helicopter and a fixed-wing aircraft from British Columbia and 2 air tankers from the Northwest Territories.

On June 23, firefighters and fire managers caught a break when wet weather moved into the Susitna valley, diminishing fire activity on the Su River fire and easing the competition for limited firefighting resources. Fire activity on the Caribou Hills fire also slowed but by then, 94 total structures had burned. The final acreage totals of the Caribou Hills and Su River fires were 56,254 and 8,489 respectively.

For the remainder of the Alaska fire season, fires occurred at a relatively moderate, but steady, rate. Aggressive initial attack coupled with favorable weather conditions ensured that no more problem fires would occur in 2007. Still, the most unusual aspect of the 2007 season would occur in September.

The Anaktuvak fire started on the north slope of the Brooks Range in mid-July. However, by late August, it had burned less than 10,000 acres. As September approached, usually a time of steadily colder weather in anticipation of the approaching winter, extremely dry conditions began to prevail. The Anaktuvak fire grew dramatically during mid-September, finally reaching 256,734 acres by the end of the month and accounting for nearly 40% of the total acres burned in 2007. Fortunately, the remoteness of this fire meant relatively little threat to the surrounding area. The Anaktuvak fire is by far the largest known fire on the north slope in Alaska's history. Additionally, no other fire in Alaska ever burned so aggressively so late into the season.

As in 2006, the relative inactivity of the 2007 Alaska fire season allowed for an early mobilization of Alaska firefighting crews to the Lower 48 states. Alaska crews, five at a time, began mobilizing to fires in the western U.S. on July 10. By the end of the season, 40 Alaska firefighting crews had worked on the fire lines from southern California to Montana. Between fires in Alaska and the Lower 48, Alaska crews generated just over $7.38 million

Brian Carver, Mat-Su WFRT, on Lower 48 assignment in Montana. Photo by Mat-Su Tech.

2007 Wildfires by Area and Protection Level

Statewide Totals by Protection Level

Critical		Full		Modified		Limited		Total	
#	Acres	#	Acres	#	Acres	#	Acres	#	Acres
186	85.3	108	73,522.5	50	7,903.8	165	567,869.8	509	649,411.4

State Protected Areas

Area	Critical		Full		Modified		Limited		Total	
	#	Acres	#	Acres	#	Acres	#	Acres	#	Acres
Anch/Mat-Su	72	31.8	20	8622.60	5	7	0	0	97	8661.9
Copper River	10	2.9	2	2.4	1	1	1	2	14	8.3
Delta	23	8.3	7	21.2	1	3	1	0.2	32	32.7
Fairbanks	48	15.4	14	34	4	45.3	6	40207.5	72	40302.2
Haines	1	0.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.1
Kenai/Kodiak	19	22.8	8	56270.4	1	0.1	3	2255.3	31	58548.6
Southwest	1	2	5	246.2	2	1.3	14	9129.1	22	9378.6
Tok	1	0.1	3	2.1	1	3	10	19038.5	15	19043.7
TOTALS	**175**	**83.42**	**59**	**65198.9**	**15**	**60.7**	**35**	**70632.6**	**284**	**135976.1**

USDA Forest Service- Protected Areas

Area	Critical		Full		Modified		Limited		Total	
	#	Acres	#	Acres	#	Acres	#	Acres	#	Acres
Chugach N.F.	6	1	1	0.1	0	0	2	1.1	9	2.2
Tongass N.F.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	**6**	**1**	**1**	**0.1**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**9**	**2.2**

BLM Alaska Fire Service -Protected Areas

Zone	Critical		Full		Modified		Limited		Total	
	#	Acres	#	Acres	#	Acres	#	Acres	#	Acres
Galena	1	0.2	9	390.9	17	2153.6	33	52145.6	60	54690.3
Military	3	0.6	14	1203.6	1	1	60	353.1	78	1558.3
Tanana	1	0.1	14	6471.8	11	1876.6	43	315024.3	69	323372.8
Upper Yukon	0	0	11	287.2	6	3811.4	46	129713.1	63	133811.7
TOTALS	**5**	**0.9**	**48**	**8353.5**	**35**	**7842.6**	**182**	**497236.1**	**270**	**513433.1**

2007 Wildland Fire Statistics

2007 Wildfires by Cause

	All Fires:		State Protection:		AFS Protection:		USFS Protection:	
	# of Fires	# of Acres	# of Fires	# of Acres	# of Fires	# of Acres	# of Fires	# of Acres
Arson	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Campfire	39	15.6	29	10.7	1	2.7	9	2.2
Children	13	18.7	13	18.7	0	0.0	0	0.0
Debris Burning	71	76.5	69	47.5	2	29.0	0	0.0
Equipment	8	347.6	7	345.5	1	2.1	0	0.0
Fireworks	3	5.5	3	5.5	0	0.0	0	0.0
Incendiary	19	1406.8	3	1.7	16	1405.1	0	0.0
Lightning	211	443715.9	76	45739.4	135	397976.5	0	0.0
Misc/Other	11	89710.6	11	89710.6	0	0.0	0	0.0
Powerline	12	2.1	11	2.0	1	0.1	0	0.0
Railroad	3	28.6	3	28.6	0	0.0	0	0.0
Smoking	3	0.3	3	0.3	0	0.0	0	0.0
Structure Fire	21	39.4	21	39.4	0	0.0	0	0.0
Unknown	46	809.1	35	26.2	11	782.9	0	0.0
Vehicle	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Wildfire Use	49	113234.7	0	0.0	49	113234.7	0	0.0
Totals	**307**	**266,267.8**	**249**	**170,942.2**	**47**	**95,317.9**	**11**	**7.7**

Fire Activity by Landowner

	All Fires:		State Protection		AFS Protection		USFS Protection	
	# of Fires	# of Acres	# of Fires	# of Acres	# of Fires	# of Acres	# of Fires	# of Acres
Boro	5	6.7	5	6.7	0	0.0	0	0.0
Bureau of Indian Affairs	3	2.8	2	1.3	1	1.5	0	0.0
Bureau of Land Management	53	41126.0	9	5248.1	44	35877.9	0	0.0
Military	24	1558.3	0	0.0	24	1558.3	0	0.0
National Park Service	33	29791.3	2	2.3	31	29789.0	0	0.0
Native Corporation	38	11983.4	10	44.6	28	11938.8	0	0.0
Private	161	56336.5	160	56336.0	0	0.0	1	0.5
State	127	389303.8	80	66397.8	46	322905.9	1	0.1
US. Fish & Wildlife Service	58	119301.0	16	7939.3	42	111361.7	7	1.6
USDA Forest Service	7	1.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Totals	**509**	**649411.4**	**284**	**135976.1**	**216**	**513433.1**	**9**	**2.2**

2007 Wildfires and acres Burned by size class

	All Fires:		State Protection		AFS Protection		USFS Protection	
	# of Fires	# of Acres	# of Fires	# of Acres	# of Fires	# of Acres	# of Fires	# of Acres
Class A	198	21.4	163	17.4	28	3.3	7	0.7
Class B	160	322.0	190	142.6	68	177.9	2	1.5
Class C	55	2,238.5	15	507.2	40	1,731.3	0	0.0
Class D	24	4,643.7	4	931.4	20	3,712.3	0	0.0
Class E	30	17,033.6	2	1,244.6	28	15,789.0	0	0.0
Class F	23	56,467.3	5	10,740.9	18	45,726.4	0	0.0
Class G	19	568,684.9	5	122,392.0	14	446,292.9	0	0.0
Totals	**509**	**649,411.4**	**384**	**135,976.1**	**216**	**513,433.1**	**9**	**2.2**

Yentna Fire: Blackhawks with Gannett Glacier and Lower Kalskag crews. Photo by Gannett Glacier crew member.

in wages in 2007. An estimated 1,250 Alaskans found employment as emergency firefighters in 2007.

In late July, fire activity in the western U.S. resulted in extreme firefighting resource shortages. The Division of Forestry sent 10 wildland fire engines to Montana, marking the first ever L48 utilization of engines from Alaska. Alaska benefited by extending the employment of its seasonal firefighters and providing additional work opportunities to numerous emergency firefighting personnel. As with all state resources on Lower 48 fires, the Division will recover all costs through an agreement with the US Forest Service.

Once again, 2007 was an extremely safe season as no major injuries occurred in the execution of the Division's fire management activities.

State Logistics Center

The State Logistics Center (SLC) processed resources orders and provided logistical support for Areas and incidents throughout the state. The SLC expanded in place and brought in dispatchers from McGrath and the Lower 48. The most significant state fires supported during the 2007 fire season were the Caribou Hills Fire and the Su River Fire. During the peak of activity communications was disrupted when Fairbanks had a power outage.

A Mobilization Center was established in Anchorage during the support of the Caribou Hills and Su River fires to house, feed, transport, and brief crews and personnel coming up from the Lower 48. The University of Alaska Anchorage was used as the site for the Mobilization Center and their cooperation and assistance was instrumental to the success of the operation.

Another challenge for SLC was providing support for the large number of crews and personnel sent to the Lower 48 during their extremely active fire season. Some regular and EFF employees went out on multiple assignments and SLC helped coordinate filling the resource orders and often made travel arrangements for the personnel. The Lower 48 mobilization was also challenging to the Areas, and the numerous resources helped relieve agencies and landowners throughout the western United States.

SLC helped mobilize the 10 state engines sent to the Lower 48. This included putting together travel arrangements for the crewmembers and helping set up agreements to transport the vehicles on flatbed trucks.

As the 2007 fire season came to a close some key individuals announced their departure. RJ Hayes the State Logistics Center Manager decided to retire and is moving to Washington. Leslie White resigned her position as SLC Aircraft Dispatcher. Both individuals will be very difficult to replace and their experience, logistical and management skills will be sorely missed.

Alaska Interagency Type I Team

The Alaska Interagency Type 1 Incident Management Team was mobilized to the nation's highest priority wildland fire in what turned out to be another record breaking season for wildland fire in the Lower 48 states. The assignment came in mid August when the team was ordered to the Jocko Lake Fire near Seeley Lake, Montana. Although this fire started on Land owned by the Confederated Kootenai and Salish Tribe, it rapidly spread to State of Montana, US Forest Service and Plum Creek Timber lands. The fast moving fire threatened the Town of Seeley Lake (Pop. 7,000), required the evacuation of several thousand residents for an extended period of time, and ultimately destroyed 8 structures. Besides the normal issues that arise form fires affecting a significant human population, the multiple jurisdictions involved and the fact that there was extensive competition for of all types of fire resources added to the complexity of this incident. The AK Team was asked to extend beyond their normal 14 tour of duty by the State of Montana and spent a full 20 days on this assignment.

The Division of Forestry continues to provide strong support to the Alaska Interagency Type 1 Team. In 2007, the Division provided key Command and General Staff including the Incident

Lynn Wilcock, Alaska Type I Team IC, at the Jocko Lake Fire. Photo: The Missoulian newspaper.

Pioneer Peak Type 1 Crew in Mat-Su Area. Photo by Renette Saba.
Top Row: Matt Jones, Zach Fleming, Sven Haltman, Daniel Whisler, Clint Homestead, BJ McGannon, Kevin Menkens, Justin Hanson, Alvin Fernandez, Jon Glover. Bottom Row: Chuck Carpenter, Brian Collison, Clint Black, Ben Kennah, Adam Hoke, Dave Anderson, Nathaniel Bertels, Matt Yeral, Greg Buczak.

Commander (Lynn Wilcock, Chief of Fire and Aviation), Planning Section Chief (Marsha Henderson, Northern Region Fire Management Officer), Safety Officer (Ken Bullman, Mat-Su Area Forester), plus many more Unit Leaders and other positions. Fire Support Forester Martin Maricle has also continued to contribute to the national wildland fire effort through participation on Area Command Teams. In 2007 he took assignments to Tallahassee, FL (Georgia and Florida fires); Winnemucca, Nevada (Idaho/Nevada Area Command); Santa Barbara, California (Zaca Fire); and San Diego, California (San Diego Unified Area Command).

Mat-Su Area

Training

2007 proved to be another busy season for training and cooperator development. With the early fire season starting April 1st, Crew, EFF, Fire Department, and Wildfire Technician training started in March. In all, over five hundred and fifty firefighters either went through the annual fireline safety refresher or a basic wildland firefighter course both held in the Mat-Su Area. On top of the regular NWCG courses and refreshers, the area worked on new methods of cooperator training. Due to the lack of a suitable live burn training site, the area's training cadre tested a 3D Scenario based training method which consisted of a sand box, role player, and computer generated fire images and behavior. The scenarios focused on topography and fuel types found within the area and were generated using Google earth map overlays. The training was attended by the Anchorage Fire Department, Ft. Richardson and Elmendorf Fire Departments. Role players were used from Alaska Fire Service, and the Division of Forestry, Mat-Su Area, making the training a true interagency event. The training was a success. The feedback from cooperators was that it was even more beneficial then field exercises, and with the combination of a sand box, generated fire behavior, and local topography, the experience was realistic enough to make them sweat. The 3D training will be updated and used again for the 2008 season. With the assistance of a Ready Reserve Grant that was received for the upcoming fire season, the goal is to reach even more cooperators with this type of training.

Prevention

With the challenges of a growing community and ever increasing urban interface problems, the Mat-Su Area's prevention staff worked on new methods of streamlining the permitting system. One of the successes was the contractor's class which helped ease the burden of site inspections on Class B size piles. The contractor's class was attended by local builders, land clearing companies, and contractors who produce the most Class B permits in the Area. Those who attended the four hour class gained knowledge on safe burning practices, State and Local requirements and guidelines, and potential consequences of escapement. Those who completed the class were issued a season long permit which did not require a site inspection. Spot inspections were done throughout the season to ensure that safe burning guidelines were met. Not one violation, warning, or citation was necessary due to escapement or unsafe burning for those who attended the class. The feedback received form the contractors was nothing but positive and the prevention staff workload was reduced by over 40 site inspections. This allowed the prevention staff to focus on other areas such as public education, enforcement, and firewise contacts. The contractors class will be taught again in 2008 with already nearly fifty contractors signed up to attend.

The Area also hosted a very successful Fire Prevention Day event at the Area office. In attendance were cooperators from five local Fire Departments as well as the Division of Forestry prevention and operations staff. The VFD Engines and DOF Aircraft were put on a static display to demonstrate the equipment and tools needed in fighting wildland fires. Also in attendance was Iditarod and Yukon Quest Champion Lance Mackey who made himself available for photos with Smokey Bear. The event was a success with a great turn out and participation from the local cooperators. (See photo on page 49.)

Fire Season

Ranking just behind the seasonal average for fire responses, the 2007 season was not without moments of excitement and drama. A late and cool spring made for a slow start to the fire season but a week of warming and drying, followed by one of the most significant lighting events in the areas history brought the season to full steam. In a 48 hour period from June 19th to June 22nd the Mat-Su Area picked up twenty-two new fire starts. The largest being the Su-River Fire that eventually went to 8,500 acres and was managed by Tom Goheen's Type II Team out from Central Oregon, Pacific Northwest Region. This major fire activity coincided with the Kenai Areas Caribou Hills Fire and the Yentna Fire which meant a shortage of resources and a need for aggressive initial attack to keep any additional starts from becoming major events. With aggressive fire fighting and assistance arriving from around the State and the Lower 48, the new starts were kept in check. The remainder of the season progressed at a more normal pace. Like the rest of the State, the Mat-Su Area sent many of the Tech's, Crews, and Engines to the Lower 48 on assignments as the needs arose.

Pioneer Peak Crew

2007 marked the 7th year for the Pioneer Peak Fire Crew and the third meeting the National Type 1 Crew standards. When not assigned to fires, the crew worked on federal fuels mitigation funds received through the Municipality of Anchorage as part of the National Fire Plan. The fuels mitigation primarily took place in the early spring prior to the Alaska fire season and again in the late fall after the crew returned from Lower Forty-Eight assignments. The fuels reduction projects consisted of thinning areas of high value public use land that were too sensitive for mechanized treatments. The work involved the removal and thinning of Black Spruce stands, and removal of beetle killed White Spruce. Because these projects were in the public eye, it gave our cooperators and the crew the opportunity to educate the public on defensible space, thinning techniques, and promote the firewise message. Their efforts received many letters of thanks and appreciation from the public for the excellent work and the professional manner they went about it. The projects they completed have reduced the risk of wildland fire around schools, municipal parks, and homes. The crew is schedule to return to the Anchorage hillside in 2008 to continue the valuable work.

The 2007 season for the crew started on April 15th where they began an intense two weeks of classroom and physical training that is required in maintaining Type 1 status. All twenty crew members completed the physically demanding training and completed 80 hours of leadership, fire behavior, and safety training. The crew was made "fire ready" on May 1st becoming the first available Type 1 crew in the State.

During the 2007 fire season, Pioneer Peak responded to 15 Initial Attack fires in the Kenai and the Mat-Su Areas. Their quick response and work on these fires kept spread to a minimum and helped achieve containment objectives. Pioneer Peak was also assigned for preposition in the Fairbanks Area during an extended period of high fire danger. The crew was also deployed on three extended attack incidents in-state which included the Moose Heart Fire, the Ruby Fire, and two tours on the Caribou Hills Fire. When the Alaska season wound down, Pioneer Peak headed south to assist with another record breaking fire season in Montana and Idaho. Once there, the crew was assigned to the Cascade Complex where they spent four weeks and received excellent evaluations for their work. The crew was later assigned to the Grays Creek Fire where they worked through the end of September. Throughout the season the crew received praise for their hard work, excellent attitude and professionalism.

Perhaps the biggest news for the crew is that they received a USFS Grant that will assist in providing the State of Alaska with a trained, qualified, and well equipped Type I fire crew. In 2008, Pioneer Peak will consist of five permanent seasonals as overhead and 15 long term seasonal non-perms. The new positions will provide the leadership and experience it takes to maintain a high level of productivity. With the additional funding, the crew will continue to provide depth to the state's firefighting capabilities for the years to come.

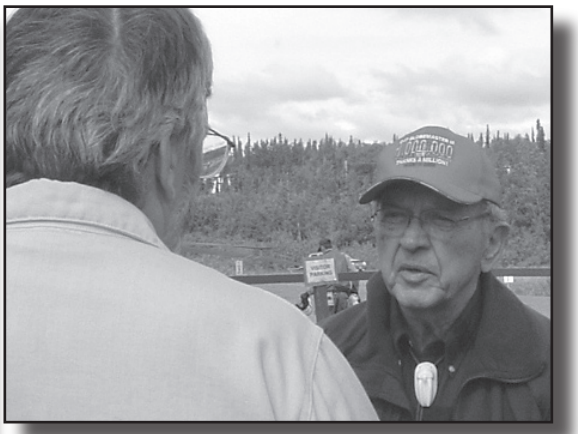
Gannett Glacier IA Crew

For the 4th season, the Gannett Glacier Crew worked on fuels mitigation projects in the Mat-Su Valley. The crew was funded from money appropriated by the Mat-Su Borough under the National Fire Plan. This year's projects focused on areas of risk around high valued public buildings. Their work provided defensible space around two schools. The high visibility projects brought public praise for their efforts. The projects also provided an opportunity for our cooperators to address the firewise message and take a "lead by example" approach. The work involves high production, manual labor projects. To prepare for the rigors of fuels mitigation and firefighting in a highly developed urban interface setting, the crew went through a week of pre-season training. Training consisted of physical training, chainsaw safety, first aid, as well as basic and advanced fire suppression courses. The crew was led by Mat-Su Area Wildfire Technician Josh Leutzinger. Josh's background with the Denali Hotshots, and Pioneer Peak helped develop Gannett Glacier into a highly organized and productive crew.

Throughout the summer Gannett Glacier responded to numerous initial attack fires in the Mat-Su Area as well as two fires in the Kenai Area. During times of high fire danger, crew members were broken into IA squads and helped augment local engine crews and helitack loads. Their flexibility and training were

2007 Prevention Statistics for Coastal Region

	KKPAO	MSAO	SWD	TOTAL
Enforcement Activities:				
Number of Burn Permits Issued	1654	4184	0	5838
Number of Warnings Issued	90	18	0	108
Number of Citations Issued	3	3	0	6
Court Cases to Trial	0	3	0	3
Outreach Programs:				
School Visits and Community Programs	81	6	0	87
Smokey Appearances	40	3	0	43
Fire in Alaska Workshops	2	3	0	5
Home Assessments	40	0	0	40



Chris Maisch briefing Senator Ted Stevens on the Caribou Hills Fire on the Kenai Peninsula. Photo by Ric Plate.

2007 Prevention Statistics for Northern Region

	FAF	DAF	VCRA	TAF	TOTAL
Number of Burn Permits Issued	2050	378	399	72	2899
Number of Warnings Issued	51	3	3	0	57
Number of Citations Issued	6	3	0	0	6
Court Cases to Trial	6	0	0	0	6
Outreach Programs:					
School Visits and Community Programs	58	2	9	26	95
Smokey Appearances	13	3	9	2	27
Fire in Alaska Workshops	2	1	0	0	3
Home Assessments	43	3	0	5	51

invaluable during a flurry of fire activity in May and June in the Southern Region. Gannett Glacier Crew responded to the Yentna fire that had a high potential of becoming the third Type 2 incidents in the region. Because of their availability and quick response, Gannett Glacier, along with local helitack and smoke jumpers, were able to contain the Yentna River fire at 65 acres. Although this fire did not receive the publicity of the two larger fires in the region, their hard work, solid crew organization, and strong leadership proved to be a large part of why that fire did not escape containment.

During the month of August, Gannett Glacier was assigned south to assist with the Lower Forty-Eight fire season. To meet the national standards for Type 2IA the crew was filled from sixteen to twenty crewmembers. With the additional positions, seasonal Wildfire Technicians from Kenai, Tok, and Mat-Su joined the crew where they gained valuable experience on a hand crew, worked on task books, and continued to build the crew's outstanding reputation. Gannett Glacier Crew was assigned to both the Chimney Complex and the Bowman Gulch Fire in Idaho where they completed a four week tour before returning to Alaska. On both incidents they receiver outstanding evaluations and gained valuable experience. Upon their return in September the crew completed the fuels projects for the Borough and plan on being back and available for 2008.

Fuels Reduction

The Mat-Su Area applied for and received a Wildland Urban Interface Fuels Reduction Grant. The grant was used to complete a fuels project around the multimillion dollar facility. The site is located in the Chugach State Park adjacent to private land along the Seward Highway. The primary fuel type consisted of beetle killed White Spruce in the red needle phase. The projects goal was to create a shaded fuel break around the Chugach Electric's substation and three out buildings and the State Parks SAGA housing facility. The work was to be done with minimal impact to the park and preserve the sensitive understory. Because of these restrictions, it made an ideal site for the use of hand labor. The total area was 18 acres of heavy standing and dead and down fuels. By removing the fuels, a defensible space around the facilities

Emergency Firefighters Wages

Year	State	Federal	Total
1997	3,869,912	1,485,846	5,355,758
1998	2,764,442	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
2002	6,002,237	2,999,461	9,001,698
2003	5,373,702	3,256,674	8,630,376
2004	10,610,556	6,633,231	17,244,087
2005	3,932,064	4,161,026	8,093,090
2006	4,916,848	4,119,978	9,036,826
2007	4,089,950	3,957,990	8,047,940

was accomplished. The primary labor force for this site was Area Wildland and Resource Technicians out of Palmer. The Technicians hand fell designated trees and limbed live standing trees to prevent further infestation. Tops and limbs were burned on site with the logs being made available by State Parks for local mills and firewood use. Two truck loads of the logs were brought to Palmer where they will be milled locally and used to construct kiosks that will house firewise and prevention information at State Park trail heads. The shaded fuel break around the SAGA and Chugach Electric facilities provided a 200ft fuel break around the high dollar value structures and is visible to the public as a demonstration of proper defensible space. This project was phase one of a three stage endeavor. The next phases are scheduled to start fall of 2008.

Prevention 2007

The prevention of wildland fires continues to be a principle focus for the Division of Forestry. 2007 saw an emphasis in three phases of wildland fire prevention that incorporated education, enforcement, and engineering. The primary cause of wildland fires continues to be human related, in all, contributing to 80% of all ignitions. The number one cause of human ignited fires continues to be some form of debris burning (20%). A significant effort was again placed on reducing these types of fires by educating the public through the burn permit program. Nearly seven thousand burn permits via on-line distribution, local fire departments, or through our dispatch system were issued in 2007. Permits holders are also required to call in daily for burning condition status. Burn permit compliance is checked through road patrols and citations. All of the Areas continue to see an annual increased participation in the burn permit program. In addition, site inspections, fire danger rating signs, prevention messages on the radio and in print, publicity of enforcement actions, and increased one-on-one contact have all contributed to raising public awareness of safe and legal debris burning practices.

School programs and public appearances continue to be annual events in taking the fire prevention message to the public. A large number of school programs were presented throughout the state along with Prevention Staff attending fairs, youth organization camps, and parades. Smokey Bear made appearances from Fairbanks to Valdez. In addition, formal wildfire educational awareness opportunities were presented at:

- Northern Living Home Show
- Fred Meyer's
- Fairbanks North Star Borough Pioneer Park
- Alaska Municipal League
- Sportsman's Warehouse
- Alaska Forum on the Environment
- Tanana Valley and Alaska State Fair
- Numerous Local Fire Departments
- Midnight Sun Celebration
- Wood Energy Conference
- Alaska Federation of Natives Conference

The television, radio, and print media continued to be an emphasis for getting the message for fire prevention out to the public. Events such as Wildland Fire Prevention Day allow added emphasis to publicize the fire prevention message. DOF shared funds with the local Fire Chiefs' Association to deliver over one thousand public service announcements with themes related to safe lawn and debris burning, campfire safety, defensible space, and reporting wildfires. This year, an announcement for defensible space was also placed in local theaters as a prelude to newly released movies. In small towns, such as McCarthy, a kiosk was completed that emphasizes safe burning practices and the perils of carelessness related to wildfire.

Individual home assessments that evaluated the risk from wildland fire were another program promoted statewide. Home owners with structures built in the urban interface are given information on the perils of wildland fire followed by an initial evaluation with specific recommendations to make a home more fire safe. Then a follow up evaluation is made to determine the success of the treatments. Tok Area has gone one step further and developed a local area where residents can bring the vegetation they remove from their property. The brush is then burned by Forestry firefighters, when conditions permit safe burning. This slash pile has been very busy annually as residents increase their personal responsibility in fire prevention. Fairbanks Area trained fifteen fire department personnel to conduct home assessments in high risk areas. These fire department personnel completed over one thousand home assessments during the 2007 fire season.

Prevention personnel from the Areas and Regions worked internally to develop a Statewide Policy and Procedure for common approaches to:

- Fire Prevention Planning
- Fire Prevention Information and Education
- Law Enforcement Policy and Procedure
- Recovery of Fire Prevention Expenditures

- Court actions and documentation
- Burn Permits and Open Burning Closures

New and innovative approaches to fire prevention education, engineering, and enforcement are a constant point of emphasis for all fire staff. This can also be viewed with the large increase in participation by local communities in the Community Wildfire Protection Plans. The savings realized from preventing even one large wildland fire can provide the resources needed for an entire prevention program.

2007 National Fire Plan/Wildland Urban Interface Projects

The National Fire Plan was adopted in 2000 to provide grants to states, some on a competitive basis, to reduce the threat of fire in wildland/urban interface areas. Funds are also available for wildfire prevention and education programs, mitigation, capacity building and homeowner and community assistance. The Division of Forestry continues to implement the National Fire Plan by supporting a variety of educational and mitigation projects, such as those described below.

Kenai Fall Firewise and Brush Pick Up Campaign

Historically, homeowners in Southcentral Alaska have conducted open burning for fuel reduction in the spring, specifically April and May, in preparation for summer. This unduly increases the fire danger during the time of year when the risk of ignitions is very high due to the dryness of the vegetation prior to green up. The Division received a National Fire Plan grant to encourage property owners to "Firewise in the Fall and Plant in the Spring" This education project began with a media campaign on Firewise techniques and announced the brush pick up program. In conjunction with the Kenai Peninsula Spruce Bark Beetle Mitigation Program Forestry offered a roadside brush pick up program to residents from the outside the city limits south of Soldotna to the end of East End Road in Homer. Local contractors donated a portion of their services to this multi community Firewise project.

Ken Bullman; Smokey; Colleen Sullivan-Leonard, Governor's Office; John See; Dean Brown; Lance Mackey, Yukon Quest and Iditarod Champion, at Wildland Fire Day Proclamation. Photo by Lori Wiertsema.

Chugach Parks Hazardous Fuel Removal Phase I

The spruce bark beetle epidemic has affected the Sitka, white and black spruce trees in the valleys of Indian and Bird Creek south of Anchorage. This past fall Forestry technicians hand felled dead and dying trees and limbed live standing trees on Chugach State Park land to prevent further infestation. All dead surface fuels and ladder fuels within eight feet of the ground were removed. Standing dead trees were felled and limbed. Logs were left long and topped at six inches. All remaining material was piled and burned. Logs will be pulled out and decked and donated to local mills and to local residents for fire wood. 17 acres were treated and work will begin again in the spring of 2008 to treat the remaining 100 acres.

Initial Attack Fire Fighters

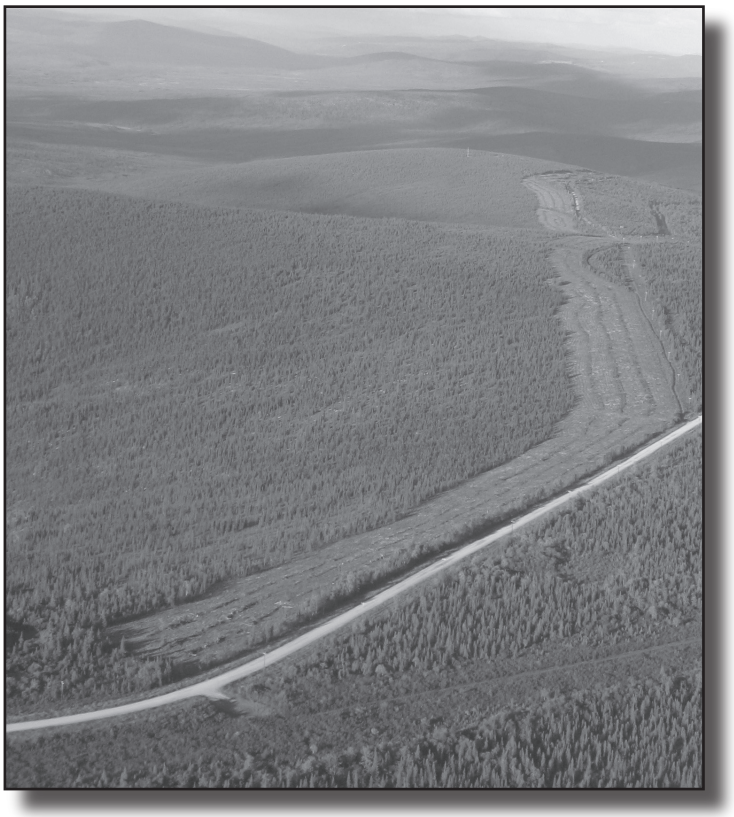
NFP funding continues to enable the Division of Forestry to retain 20 permanent initial attack firefighters in Palmer, Fairbanks, Soldotna, Delta, and Tok. These firefighters improve initial attack capabilities at the state, local government and volunteer fire departments in the urban interface areas. Effective initial attack of a fire reduces overall suppression costs and minimizes threats to private and public property from wildland fire.

Community Wildfire Protection Plan for the Fairbanks North Star Borough

Alaska has faced two back to back record breaking fire seasons. The majority of the fires occurred in the interior. The fire season of 2004 was the largest on record with over 6.5 million acres burned. The 2004 wildland fires burning within the FNSB included the Boundary Fire (537,098 acres), Tors Fire (31,114 acres) and Wolf Creek Fire (210,233 acres). The 2004 fire season resulted in several evacuations of subdivisions and residences within the Fairbanks North Star Borough. The 2005 season was not far behind with 4.6 million acres making it the third largest on record. Heavy smoke was the norm for both summers. The beginning of a trend of increased fire activity in the interior.

Fortunately, due to good fire suppression efforts, no one was seriously hurt and few structures were lost. It served as a reminder to us that the ecosystem of the interior is fire based. Fire can not be permanently kept from the forests of the interior. On many fronts, the fire season served as a wake up call for Fairbanks.

Prior to 2005, no consolidated or comprehensive plan had been developed to prioritize wildfire risk reduction projects. Projects were developed independently of each other and did not address overall community risk. A comprehensive plan was needed so that future risk reduction projects were allocated to the areas identified as the highest risk, resulting in the most effective distribution of limited funding. The Fairbanks North Star Borough Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) is a collaborative effort that has been developed as a result of the 2003 Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA) which directs communities at risk of wildfire to develop a risk assessment and mitigation plan. The State of Alaska, Division of Forestry, Fairbanks Area and Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB) partnered with local, state, and federal agencies to develop strategies, share resources,



Aerial view of Old Murphy treatment area providing a fuel break for 17 miles.

and consolidate wildfire risk planning to address the threat of wildfire to the Fairbanks North Star Borough residents. In 2005, the Fairbanks North Star Borough and the State of Alaska, Division of Forestry, Fairbanks Area (DOF) signed a cooperative agreement to complete mapping of hazardous fuels for the entire Fairbanks North Star Borough and to complete a comprehensive Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). The plan is available on the Division of Forestry's website http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/forestry/ .

The goal of the CWPP is to develop and prioritize a thorough action plan of risk reduction projects in the high risk areas identified by the exposure model. CWPP identifies agencies to carry out the action plan items and provides for measuring progress and annual updates.

The exposure model was built within ArcGIS (ESRI, Redlands, CA), a Geographical Information System (GIS) environment. This enabled multiple sources of information to be incorporated into the four main modeling components: Hazard Fuels, Ignition Risks, Values of Concern, and Suppression Difficulty. The final Wildfire Exposure map is the result of combining these components to determine the relative risk to homeowners from wildfire across the landscape within the Fairbanks North Star Borough.

The CWPP and Exposure Model will be accomplished in two phases with Phase I covering Fairbanks, North Pole, Ester, Fox and portions of the Chena Hot Springs road. Phase I was completed in the spring of 2006. Phase II covers the rest of the borough is scheduled for completion in the spring of 2008. Public meetings were held to gather comments from the public, community leaders, agencies, organizations and emergency service personnel on their concerns and priorities regarding wildfire risks and projects to reduce that risk. Based on all of these inputs, a wildfire risk mitigation action plan was developed.

Action Plan Accomplishments in 2006 and 2007:

- Provided current fire information to the public. Division of Forestry (DOF) developed a mapping website to display fires, activated burn permits, evacuation maps, fuel treatment projects, Zones of Concern, etc. http://forestrymaps.alaska.gov

- Provided timely evacuation information to the affected public. Instituted community wide automated call out system known as "reverse 911". Subdivisions requiring evacuation can be contacted automatically through the automated call out system and given an evacuation message.

- Improved the accuracy of FNSB parcel database, so homes can be more easily identified by emergency responders.

- Provided fire departments, DOF dispatch and fire managers, FNSB emergency managers with improved GIS data and map products.

- Identified and mapped Zones of Concern for each fire department. A Zone of Concern is an areawith unusually high fire risk due to heavy black spruce concentrations. Zones of Concern are rated Extreme, Very High, and High.

- Supported the use of Firewise program by borough homeowners. Provided site inspections and cost share treatments when funding was available. Firewise is a program that encourages homeowners to reduce wildfire risk to their homes by reducing hazardous fuels, such as black spruce, planting less fire prone vegetation, etc.

- Division of Forestry trained 2 fire fighters from each fire department on Firewise home assessments. These fire fighters visited each residence in the Zones of Concern within their fire service area to provide information as to the elevated risk from wildfire and the Firewise techniques to reduce that risk. A free evaluation to each resident was made available. Over 1000 homes were evaluated. This program will continue in 2008.

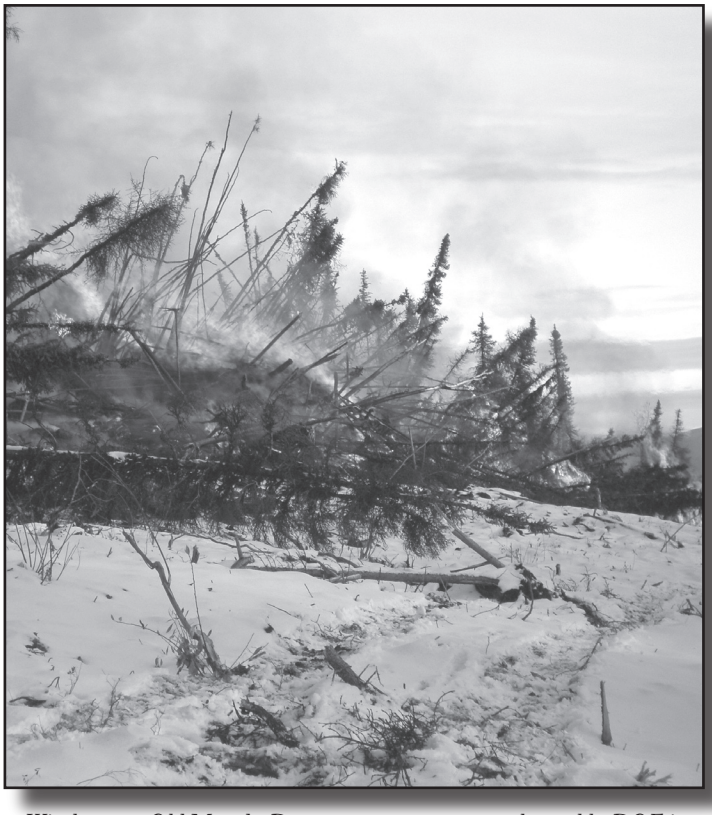
- Supported the use of Firewise program by insurance companies. State Farm started inspecting customer homes in 2006 providing recommendations to meet Firewise. DOF provided additional assessment support and exposure maps to prioritize high risk areas.

- Provided fire risk reduction standards to FNSB Title 17 steering committee. Title 17 guides subdivision development. The steering committee is adding new standards to borough code. The addition of fire risk reduction standards

such as: two ways in and out of a subdivision, roads wide enough to carry two lanes of traffic, all homes located in Zones of Concern must meet Firewise clearing requirements, will greatly increase public and fire fighter safety.

- Cleared black spruce around a dozen borough dumpster sites. Dumpster fires are common. High potential existed, prior to fuel treatment, for a dumpster fire to carry into the wildland.

- Treated, piled and burned hazardous fuels on approximately 1500 acres on public land at strategic locations identified by the CWPP. Black spruce forests were treated with a shear blade on 1500 acres at Little Chena, Goldstream, and Old Murphy Dome. The windrows were allowed to season during the summer and were burned during the late fall. The treatment areas provide a fuel break in continuous stands of black spruce.



Windrows at Old Murphy Dome treatment area were burned by DOF in October, 2007. Photo by Gordon Amundson.

Federal Excess Personal Property (FEPP) Program

The Division of Forestry, through the authority of the U.S. Forest Service, participates in the Federal Excess Personal Property Program (FEPP) that allows Federal Excess Property to be loaned to authorized participants. The Division of Forestry then authorizes local fire departments through cooperative agreements to use this equipment for their fire suppression needs. Federal grants acquired to enhance this program allow for the build up and maintenance of this equipment. This equipment can be the primary suppression equipment for the State's smaller communities.

Significant projects in 2007 consisted of the screening and acquisition of two crew cab trucks that will be built up for local Volunteer Fire Departments. The trucks will be fitted with suppression equipment and ready for service by the 2008 fire season.

The program also requires the significant task of maintaining the FEPP equipment used by the VFDs as well as the Division. In the fall of 2007, a maintenance review of all FEPP rolling stock was completed by the Maintenance Foremen Ken Cruickshanks and John Gregor. All rolling stock was personally inspected to determine condition and road worthiness. Forestry is now in the process of excessing approximately 30 vehicles from its FEPP fleet with plans to continue the screening process to replace/update the equipment with new acquisitions. This has been a long arduous project but necessary for keeping a safe and reliable fleet.

The Division of Forestry currently has, on loan, FEPP assets totaling $3,561,349.75.

2007 Grants

KENAI-KODIAK AREA FireWise Grants

The Kenai-Kodiak Area has been working with three Western State Forester's Association (WSFA) grants beginning with a 2004 FireWise education and hazard fuel reduction project. The educational campaign focuses on "Beautify Your Property with FireWise Techniques" and "Homes Won't Burn If Homes Don't Ignite." Products developed and distributed include seed packets, magnets, key fobs, and roadside signs. The fuel reduction work has consisted of creating 100 foot less-flammable buffers along the border between the private lands and public lands and along road access at 33 sites on the western peninsula. The work entailed hand felling hazard trees and bucking and limbing trees to bring flammable materials down to the ground for faster decomposition. In areas of heavy concentrations, slash was burned, otherwise limbs and tops were cut up or scattered onto the forest floor. Local residents collected any firewood-sized wood for personal use.

A 2007 WSFA grant focuses on "FireWise in the Fall then Plant in the Spring", encouraging residents to conduct fuel reduction projects in the fall rather than spring when slash disposal is more difficult during periods of high fire danger. The program offers slash pickup and disposal service to residents of five Community Wildfire Protection Plan areas who identified the need in their Action Plans. The project includes an educational campaign in mid to late summer and again in the spring.

The 2007 FireWise Education and Assessment Team grant will fund personnel to assist eight communities with pre-fire preparations including home assistance surveys, identification of high hazard areas, providing FireWise and emergency response preparedness information, and working with local developers and landscaping services on FireWise techniques. In the fall of 2007,

the team leader and team unit leaders are developing the FireWise for All Seasons campaign that will begin in April 2008.

Volunteer Fire Assistance Grants to Rural Fire Departments

The Volunteer Fire Assistance Program provides funds to increase firefighter safety, improve the fire fighting capabilities of rural volunteer fire departments, and enhance protection in the urban wildland interface. The funds come through the U.S. Forest Service and are administered by the Division of Forestry.

In 2007, the VFA Program provided $130,100 for rural fire departments. Additional State Fire Assistance funding brought the total to $160,273.07. The division received 37 requests for equipment, training and prevention activities and funded 27.

Fire Department	Award Amount
Anchor Point	$5,931.00
Bear Creek FS	$4,000.00
Big Lake	$7,500.00
Butte	$7,500.00
Cantwell	$1,552.00
Chena Goldstream	$7,140.00
Chickaloon	$6,485.00
Craig	$2,800.60
Dillingham	$2,000.00
Eflin Cove	$5,000.00
Ester	$7,364.00
Girdwood	$7,500.00
Hollis	$4,500.00
Homer	$7,500.00
Hope/Sunrise	$7,500.00
Kachemak ES	$6,746.00
Klehini Valley	$5,250.00
McGrath	$5,000.00
Nenana	$6,750.00
Nikiski	$7,370.00
Seward	$5,872.50
Steese	$7,500.00
Strelna	$7,299.00
Sutton	$6,000.00
Tok	$6,750.00
Valdez	$3,562.47
Willow	$5,400.00
Total	**$160,273.07**

Training Program Highlights

Fire Training Program

The division provides training to maintain a qualified and safe workforce, ready to respond to wildland fires and other emergencies as needed. Interagency courses are open to structure fire departments, local government, emergency firefighters, other geographic areas, 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. DOF personnel received training as Planning Section Chief and Area Command Aviation Coordinator. Additionally, local government received training as Information Officer.

Lower 48 training helped the division stay current on national advances in incident management, dispatching, fire prevention education and fire investigation/case development, incident business management, fire program management, aviation operations, leadership, logistics functions such as facilities, ground support and food unit leader, communications, and engine operations.

The division made advances in keeping our personnel current on the latest incident management and fire prevention/investigation courses, and qualified personnel for Type 1 and Type 2 Incident Management Team positions.

The division sent employees to an Engine Academy session to help develop instructors for our instate academy.

Forestry employees and/or participants sponsored by the division attended the following courses in 2007:

- S-620 Area Command
- S-520 Advanced Incident Management
- Fire Management Leadership
- L-480 Incident Management Team Leadership
- Wildland Fire Origin and Cause Determination
- Wildland Fire Investigation Case Development
- Logistics Unit Leader positions-Facilities, Ground Support, Food Unit
- Time Unit Leader
- Incident Communications Technician
- Division/Group Supervisor
- Aviation positions-Helibase Manager, Helicopter Manager, Air Support Group Supervisor
- Initial Attack Dispatcher
- Engine Academy

Instate Training

The division and its cooperators provided 49 fire and incident command system courses to 419 students for 1,316 hours of training at the statewide level. 82 instructors participated in this training. Area offices provided additional training in Basic Firefighter, Fireline Safety , entry-level suppression skills, first aid/CPR/BBP, hazardous materials, OSHA safety training, Powered Industrial Trucks, Saws, and Geographic Positioning System. The Area offices provided 156 classes, trained 2,526 students, for 1,403 hours of training. 194 instructors participated in delivery of Area level training.

Core suppression skill courses such as Task Force/Strike Team Leader, Fire Operations in the Interface, Fire Behavior, Extended Attack Incident Commander, Crew and Dozer Boss, Crew

Fire Training Program 2007
Statewide Training Statistics (includes Area and Statewide Interagency Training)

Type of Course	# of Courses	# of DOF Instructors	# of Students	# of Hours
Incident Command System	10	2	70	104
Basic Firefighter	13	23	255	502
AK Crew Boss	1	3	14	88
Fire Management	7	6	61	184
Dispatch	6	10	61	148
Aviation	8	22	92	140
Suppression	39	65	450	836
Prevention	0	0	0	0
Leadership (L-courses)	2	4	27	56
Prescribed Fire	1	0	2	24
1st Aid/CPR/BBP	15	11	257	84
Fireline Safety	72	106	1254	390
Industrial Power Trucks	5	5	63	18
Hazardous Materials:				
*Warehouse	2	0	27	16
*1st Responder	7	5	91	32
OSHA Safety Training	13	13	167	49
Resource Advisor	2	0	28	16
Other				
GPS	1	1	25	8
Finance Entry Level	1	0	1	24
TOTALS:	**204**	**276**	**2945**	**2719**

Chart includes training sponsored by the division statewide, area offices, and training attended by division , cooperating fire departments, Type 1 crews, and Emergency Firefighters. It includes emergency firefighter crews and participants from other agencies.

Lower 48 Training 2007

Type of Course	Courses	Participants	Hours
Fire Management	4	4	280
Suppression	9	14	440
Prevention	3	4	160
Dispatch	1	1	40
Leadership	1	1	40
Aviation	2	2	80
TOTALS:	**20**	**26**	**1040**

Representative, and Engine Academy with Emergency Vehicle Driving were offered on a statewide basis.

Aviation training in Helicopter Crewmember, Helicopter Manager Refresher, Air Tanker Base Manager, Aerial Firing, and Air Attack refresher were offered.

The Resource Ordering Status System (ROSS) training and ROSS train-the-trainer classes along with Dispatch Recorder and Support Dispatcher courses were offered statewide.

Several leadership classes were offered which included Local Fire Management Leadership, Incident Leadership, and Followership to Leadership.

Incident command system courses, Methods of Instruction, Equipment Inspection, Incident Business Management, ISuite, Resource Advisor, Hazardous Materials for Warehouse, and Burn Boss were also conducted.

Plans, Logistics, and Finance entry level, orientation training, were offered to help stir up interest in these areas.

The biennial Alaska Crew Boss Academy was offered and trained 28 Type 2 Crew Bosses from the villages of Fairbanks, Delta, Glennallen, Tetlin, Mentasta, Tanacross, Northway, Hooper Bay, Nondalton, Chevak, Holy Cross, Noorvik, Saint Michael, Koyuk, Mountain Village, Selawik, Stebbins, Fort Yukon, Venetie, Arctic Village, Minto and Allakaket.

Interagency Fire Training Courses offered in 2007:
- Resource Advisor
- Plans, Finance, Logistics orientation
- Incident Command System
- Intermediate Fire Behavior
- Task Force/Strike Team Leader
- ROSS
- Equipment Inspection
- Methods of Instruction
- Fire Operations in the Interface
- Fireline Leadership
- Support Dispatcher
- Dispatch Recorder
- Helicopter Manager Refresher
- Followership to Leadership
- Incident Business Management
- Engine Academy
- Certified Emergency Vehicle Operator
- Extended Attack Incident Commander
- Hazardous Materials Transport
- Air Tanker Base Manager
- Local Fire Management Leadership
- Aerial Firing
- Crew Boss and Dozer Boss
- Burn Boss
- Advanced Fire Behavior Calculations
- CFFDRS
- ISuite
- Crew Representative
- Alaska Crew Boss Academy
- Helicopter Crewmember
- Air Attack refresher training

Fire Department and Local Government Training

Many fire department and local government personnel were certified (or trainees) in ICS positions such as:
- Crew Boss
- Engine Boss
- Engine Operator
- Helicopter Boss
- Firefighter I and II
- Helicopter Crewmember
- Helicopter Manager
- Helibase Manager
- Initial Attack Incident Commander
- Extended Attack Incident Commander
- Strike Team Leader Engine
- Task Force Leader
- Information Officer 1, 2, & 3
- Liaison Officer
- Dispatch Recorder
- Status Check in Recorder
- ISuite
- Personnel Time Recorder

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 meet the training needs of volunteer fire departments.

Fire department and local government employees had 33 students attend 7 classes for 203 hours of training (Alaska Interagency Classes). Many more attended Area sponsored training which included Basic Firefighter, Fireline Safety Refresher, Saws, Initial Attack Simulation training, and others.

Aviation Program Highlights

2007 was a busy year for the aviation section. Training was a high priority. Steve Elwell, Aviation Supervisor and Steve Edwards, Maintenance Inspector attended the DOI-AMD / USDA-USFS Interagency Inspectors Workshop. Gary Doyle and Doug Burts, Aircraft Pilot II's and lead plane pilots attended and successfully completed refresher training with the military MAAFS's unit in Arizona. Wes Walker, Aircraft Technician, attended the Flight Safety school for "Avionics for Maintenance Technicians". The dedicated staff continues to do a great job!

The Division continued the ASM/Lead Plane program to include the continued training of one Lead plane pilot. This was accomplished with the two leased Pilatus PC-7 aircraft. A Federal Excess Property Program DHC-2 Beaver, and the leased

Tom Marok and Ric Plate, Kenai-Kodiak Area Forestry, in the field during the Caribou Hills Fire. Photo by Steve Scales.

Commander 500S, provided logistical support and ATGS training. These aircraft totaled 635 flight hours.

The contract for 2 Douglas DC-6 Airtankers was in its fifth year of a five year contract. The aircraft and crews are provided by Conair. During the "Caribou Hills Fire" additional Convair 580 Airtanker Group was resource ordered through the Northwest Compact and British Columbia and flew 58 hours. Additionally, two CL-215 "scooper aircraft" were ordered in the same manner with the Northwest Territories and were flown 94 hours. The Division's contract DC-6's flew a total of 105 flight hours.

Evergreen Helicopters of Alaska provided six long term contracted helicopters, located in Palmer, McGrath, Fairbanks, Delta, Tok, and Kenai. These rotorcraft provided platforms for both IA Helitack, and logistical support on the project fires that plagued the State. Total flight hours were 486 hours.

This year was the fifth year that the State of Oregon requested a PC-7 / ASM to aid in their wildland fire suppression effort. The aircraft and crew were ordered through the Northwest Compact and Oregon paid for all expenses and flight hours. The aircraft was on order for 60 days. Our second PC-7 Lead Plane was requested by the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise to support Lower 48 wildland fire suppression efforts and was on station for 12 days in Montana.

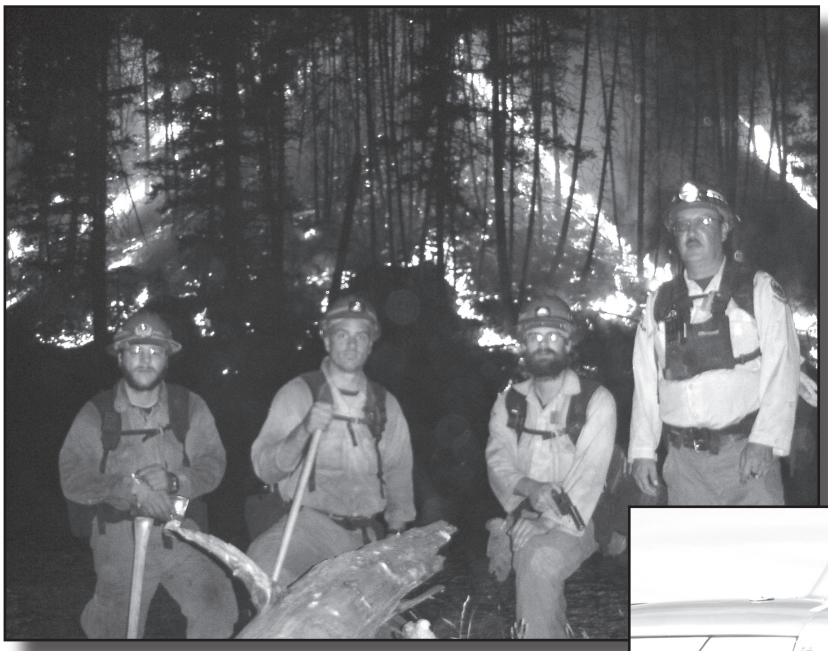
Fire Warehouse

The State Fire Warehouse system processed 4000 issues for a total of $11,000,000 in 2007. It supported 170 In-State incidents including 2 State of Alaska Type II incidents. It provided $ 2,500,000 in support to multiple BLM Incidents and lower 48 fires.

12 of the 15 warehouse personnel statewide went on assignments in state or to the Lower 48 in 2007.

The Warehouse system hired 3 new personnel this year. The Palmer warehouse hired 2 positions. 1 to replace Jerri Webster, who moved into the Warehouse Manager Position last year and 1 to replace Harry "Buck" Lagrew. Buck had spent the last 23 seasons working in the Eagle River and then Palmer warehouses and his experience and willingness to help will be greatly missed. We would like to welcome Jessica Blydenburgh and Benny Caruso to our Palmer Warehouse team.

The Fairbanks warehouse lost a valued employee in Beth Cender, when she decided to make a go of farming at her Copper River home. She had a lot of experience and was active with the Type I and II Incident Management teams. We will fill her position in the spring of 2008 but Beth will be hard to replace. We hired John Jodwalis to replace Matthew VanDenkolk who resigned in the off-season. John brings additional knowledge and experience to our warehouse team.



Nathan Blydenburgh, CJ Center, Brian Carver, and Dave Dolfi on Engine Assignment in Lower 48. Photo by Mat-Su Tech.

Tom Kurth, Fire Operations Forester; Chris Maisch, State Forester; Lynn Wilcock, Chief of Fire and Aviation visiting the Soldotna Office during the Caribou Hills Fire. Photo by Ric Plate.

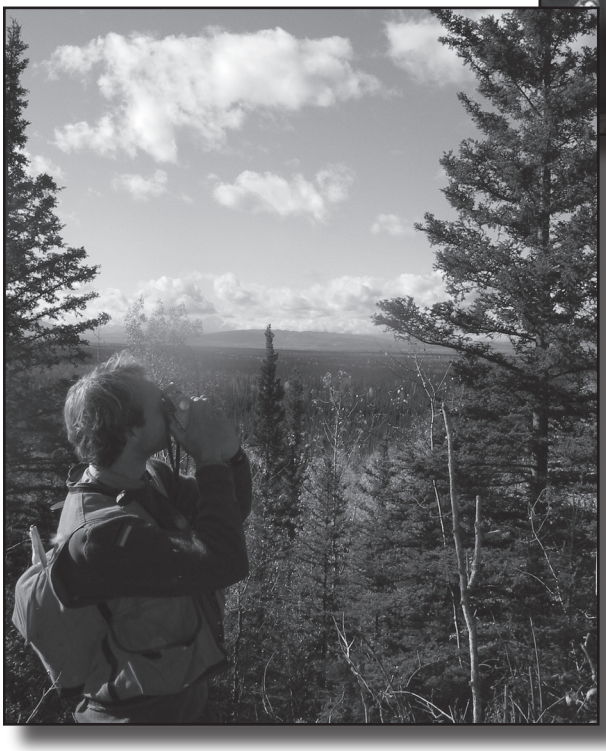
L to R helicopter pilot, Ric Plate, Kenai-Kodiak Area Forester, U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski and Lynn Wilcock, Chief of Fire and Aviation, visiting the Caribou Creek Fire. Photo by Sharon Roesch.

Forestry engine on Lower 48 assignment with helicopter and bucket drop. Photo by Don Anderson.

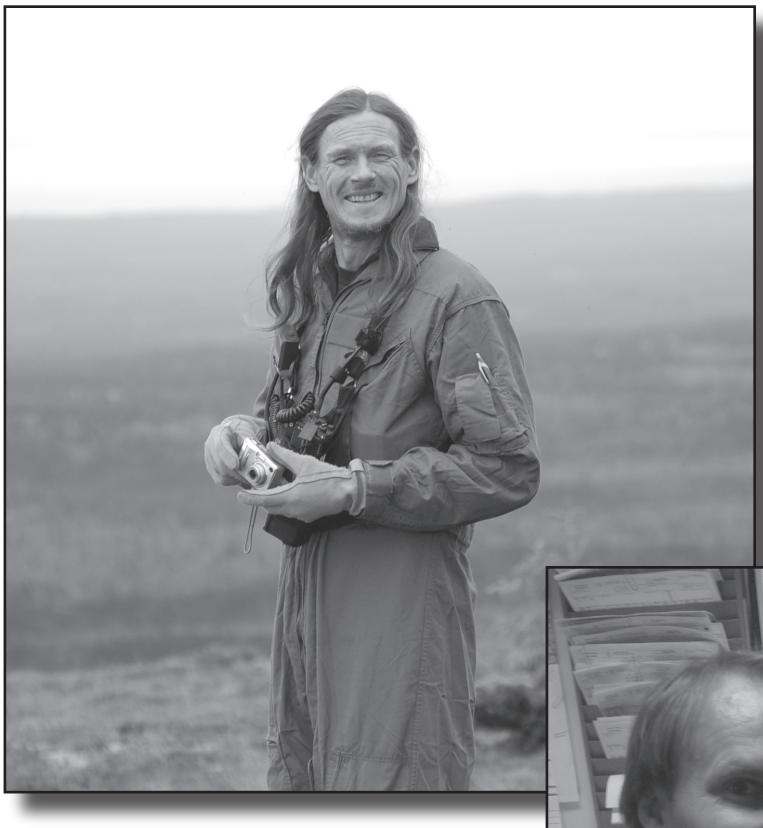
Dan White in Kenai-Kodiak Engine K61, fording river on Montana assignment. Photo by Don Anderson.

Smokey Bear at the Boys & Girls Club in Kenai - Robert Mullowaney (L) and Dan White (R). Photo by Sharon Roesch.

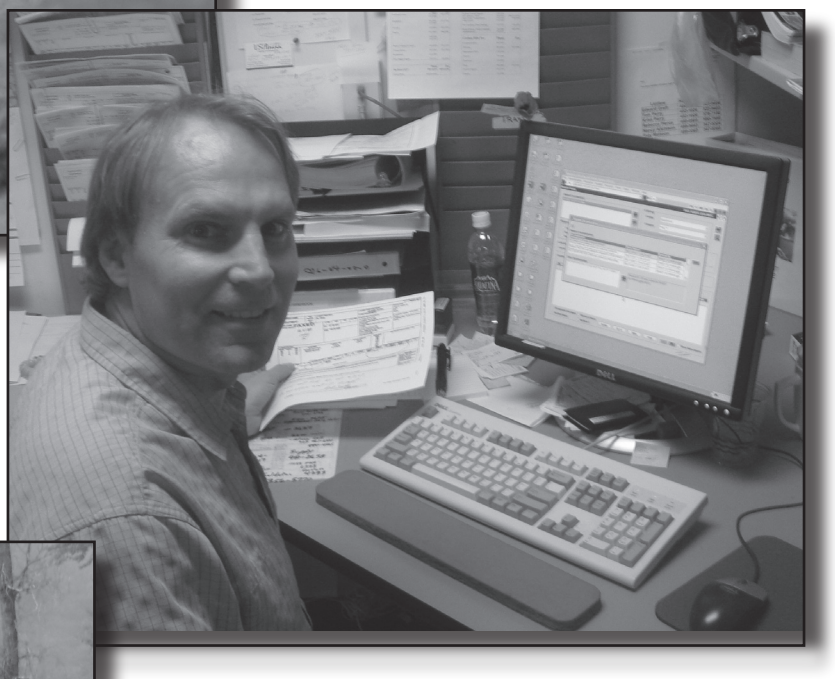
Forest Intern, Torsten Molleman, measuring tree height on inventory. Photo by Paul Keech.



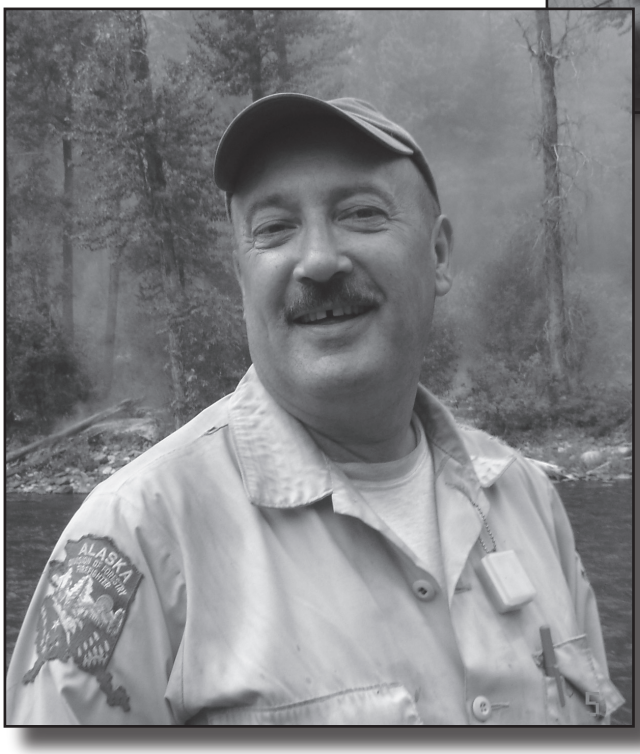
Forester, Paul Keech, heads up forest typing on 3D system. Photo by Marc Lee.



Steve Scales, Kenai-Kodiak Area Suppression Foreman.
Photo by Ric Plate.



Paul Beberg, Equipment Dispatch State Logistics.
Photo by Tom Kurth.



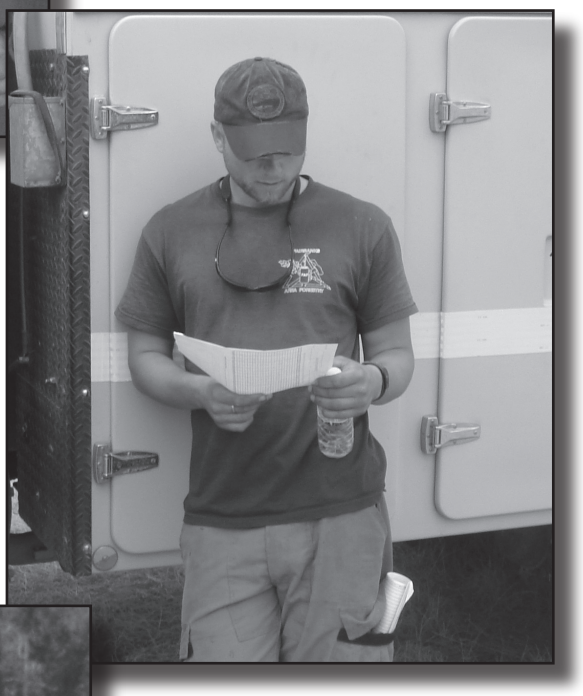
Dave Dolfi, Mat-Su, on engine assignment in Montana.
Photo by Mat-Su Tech.

Brian Carver, Mat-Su Area Tech, on engine assignment in Montana.

Al Root, Wildland Fire Dispatcher, McGrath.

Martin Maricle, Statewide Fire Support Forester on fire assignment.

Doug Albrecht, Coastal Training Officer, and Norm McDonald, Acting FMO for Mat-Su Area.



Jeremiah Silas, WFRT Fairbanks Area.

Nathan Blydenburgh, Mat-Su Area Tech, on engine assignment in Montana.

Sitka Tree & Landscape Committee volunteers Joe D'Arienzo and Terry Perensovich. Photo by Lisa Moore.

Jeff Hermanns, Tok Area Forester.

Lt. Governor Sean Parnell on Caribou Hills Fire tour. Photo: Ric Plate.

Tim Whitesell with 36" bar on fire assignment. Photo Tom Kurth.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION: RETIREMENT

Photo by Lori Wiertsema.

John See

After 27 years in Alaskan Forestry, John has retired. John's long and distinguished career culminated with the recognition of his peers and a letter from Governor Palin recognizing his dedication and professionalism in wildland fire. As the Coastal Region FMO, John provided the experience, decision making, and leadership that set an example for upcoming firefighters and fire managers.

John's career accomplishments are extensive and varied. A Fire Behavior Analyst, he served on the Alaska Type I Interagency Incident Management Team, was instrumental in working with CFFDRS when it was instituted in the state as the boreal forest model, worked closely with peers in Canada on both that and spruce bark beetle depredation that created changed in fuels on the Kenai Peninsula and in Southcentral, and provided the Anchorage Fire Department with the FARSITE analysis for their work in the Anchorage Bowl. He was also an alternate Information Officer on the Type I team. His expertise was called upon with the legal defense team for the Miller's Reach Fire class-action lawsuit which resulted in a clear decision in the State's favor. He has served on numerous projects such as the Anchorage Wildfire Planning Committee, the Science and Technical Committee representative on the Kenai Peninsula Borough Spruce Bark Beetle Task Force. The list of project fires has either worked directly on or had Zone FMO responsibility for is extensive – ranging from the first FEMA fire in Tok, through Miller's Reach and the record setting 2004 fire season! He responded as part of the Type I Team to the World Trade Center 911 disaster, and worked on hurricane responses, the Yellowstone Fire and the Exxon Valdez Disaster.

John will be sorely missed in Forestry, although we wish him the best in future endeavors and intend to lure him back whenever possible.

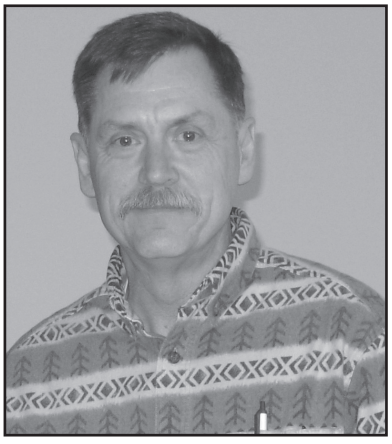


Photo by Ric Plate.

Jim Peterson

Jim retired after 29 years on June 1. Jim began his career with Forestry in Soldotna on June 11, 1979, arriving from Kelso, Washington. He was the Area Manager hired by District Manager Larry Dutton, also a forester, but part of the original Division of Lands prior to the creation of a Division of Forestry. As such, Jim was responsible for water rights, land use permits, land use leases, material sales, timber sales, forest practices, beach log salvage and fire. With creation of a division, this became the Area Forester responsible for fire, forest practices and timber sales – Jim's real calling. Jim was the Area Forester and met the unprecedented challenges throughout the spruce bark beetle infestation. He spearheaded offering more than 40 sales totaling 64 MMBF on over 11,000 acres – a huge accomplishment given the controversy that surrounds harvesting on the Kenai where fishing, tourism, and recreation are paramount. He was successful where larger federal agencies were stymied. In the 1990s, Kenai timber sales were the target of two lawsuits – the first legal challenges to the state's timber sale program. Jim's thorough and professional preparation of the FLUPs and FYSTs and his excellent public and interagency outreach efforts were critical to the state's success in prevailing on all counts in both cases.

Jim and his staff were a real asset to Alaska when Forestry hosted the National Association of State Foresters in 2006. The technical tour was the highlight of the meeting, originating in Anchorage with a train trip to Seward, where a boat trip and tour through the Sealife Center was spectacular. Jim coordinated the technical presentations with the USFS and his staff that resulted in a professional, knowledgeable and thoroughly interesting program.

Throughout 29 years, Jim was The Forester on the Kenai Peninsula. He was excellent in dealing with the public, decisive when needed, and pragmatic in his approach. He provided our current foresters and technicians with a foundation in professionalism, work ethic, and forest stewardship through his example. His leadership, knowledge, and institutional memory of "all things" on the Kenai are irreplaceable. Good luck to Jim!

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION: RETIREMENT

Bruce Johnson

Bruce retired from the statewide FRPA training and coordinating position – a job he had held in Juneau for many years! Bruce had a total of 29 years with the State in both Forestry and Division of Forest, Land and Water Management.

Bruce started as a Forester II in the Juneau Office in 1979 as part of the Division of Forest, Land and Water Management. He was the first Forest Practices Forester in Southeast Alaska and was responsible for administering and enforcing all of the forst practices activity in the southeast area. A field forester in SE, Bruce had a wealth of information and experience during a time that was the beginning of extensive logging activity on all native corporation lands. Bruce was very involved in developing new regulations and Best Management Practices (BMPs) for the Forest Resources and Practices Act (FRPA)

In 1982, Bruce became Juneau Area Forester and, along with his Forest Practices responsibilities, conducted timber sales and administered the new beach log salvage program for the Division. In 1988 Bruce became responsible for administering the long-term timber sale at Icy Bay. His involvement in Icy Bay was instrumental to his responsibilities when in 1990 he transferred to the Division of Land and Water. There he was an adjudicator on the Icy Bay settlement between DNR and the University of Alaska. After four years working for the Division of Land & Water, Forestry got his expertise back – as the Regional Forest Practices Forester for the coastal region. He initiated and developed the Division's monitoring program for FRPA and conducted field audits of BMP implementation on private land in southeast and the Kenai Peninsula.

Bruce brought statewide consistency to the FRPA program as training officer for the division and conducted intensive training sessions for Forestry field inspectors. He also conducted inter-agency training for other agencies with FRPA responsibilities. He assisted in developing the BMP compliance score sheet and authored the Best Management Practices Field Manual. While Bruce was involved in FRPA for over 25 years, the program became a cooperative effort between forest industry, fishing, water and regulatory interests that has evolved into a statewide effort with a reputation for responsible management and results.

Bruce's long career has greatly benefited Forestry. We wish him good fortune in retirement – and continued support of forest management.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION: 25 YEARS OF SERVICE

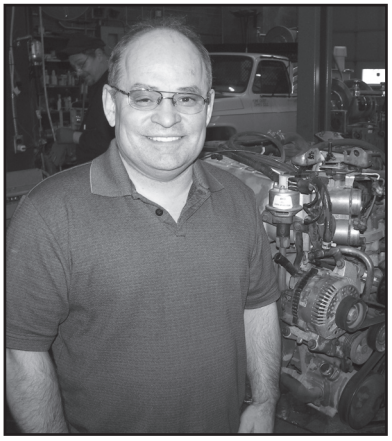


Photo by Dean Brown.

Ken Cruickshanks

Ken came to Alaska in 1975 to work as a laborer on the Trans/Alaska pipeline. One of his first jobs was working as hydro seeder operator reclaiming material sites in the Brooks Range. He tells folks who ask about his pipeline days that he was a farmer on the North Slope. After the pipeline work was over he went back to school and in 1979 Ken graduated from Alaska Vocational Technical Center in Seward with a certificate in heavy equipment mechanics and maintenance welding.

In 1980, Ken began his career with the State of Alaska working for the Department of Transportation as a maintenance worker. Ken feels fortunate that he has had the opportunity to work at several remote locations along the Dalton Highway.

Ken came to the Division of Forestry Shop in Fairbanks in 1985. His official job title was Maintenance worker but he was mostly responsible for repairing pumps and saws. There he refined his small engine repair skill and helped set up a parts inventory system.

In 1990, Ken transferred to the Eagle River shop to fill a mechanics position. He has continued his education throughout the last 20 years in both academic and vocational training. These skills have helped Ken design and fabricate many pieces of equipment including several type 6 engines.

Ken became shop Foreman of the Eagle River Shop in 2004. During the last 4 years many new repair procedures were implemented. Every spring Ken and his staff provide hands-on informal saw & pump field maintenance classes at the Eagle River shop. Ken was also instrumental in setting up a field mechanic truck with operator. This truck has been used extensively to support fires throughout the state.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION: 25 YEARS OF SERVICE

(Ken Cruickshanks, continued)

Ken has taken on the role of state-wide federal excess screener. Along with his staff they have used fed excess equipment to provide Volunteer Fire Departments throughout the state with refurbished fire engines. He is qualified for several different logistics positions and has filled many roles on the Alaska teams. His most memorable experience was a 30 day assignment to the World Trade Center in support with the Type 1 team. He has used his experience to help in logistic training throughout the state. Ken's leadership has helped provide a staff of motivated employees. He likes to think of the shop as statewide resource.

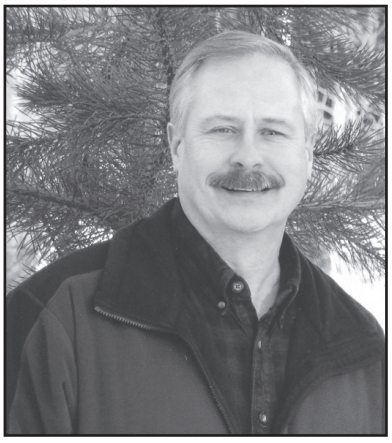


Photo by Dean Brown.

Tom Marok

Tom Marok began his wildland firefighting career upon completion of the University of Minnesota, Forestry Technician School in 1977. He worked two seasons for the State of Minnesota, DNR, doing wildland firefighting. Tom moved to Alaska in February 1979 and began working for the Division of Forestry on April 23, 1979. He was an engine boss for two seasons and became the Kenai Kodiak Area (KKA) Forest Warden in 1981, a position he held until transferring to the Area Logistics Coordinator in 1990.

During his tenure as Forest Warden, Tom was very active with the fire prevention program. Among his contributions, Tom established a program to teach wildland fire prevention and safety in local elementary school classrooms each spring. He also initiated the fire investigation and enforcement program on the Kenai Peninsula and recorded the Division's first successes in prosecuting violators of the fire protection statutes.

The year of 1991 signaled a change was in the works for wildland firefighting on the Kenai when the Pothole Lake fire burned 7900 acres of mostly beetle killed spruce. This was the largest fire since the 1974 Chikaloon River Fire (3,780 ac). The KKA would be challenged with at least a dozen more large fires and several hundred smaller fires over the next 15 seasons under Tom's leadership. Tom also worked his way through the Expanded Dispatch qualification ranks reaching the level of CORD trainee. During this process, Tom has worked in 7 of the 11 National Geographic Areas. These experiences enabled him to learn many new ideas and procedures which helped to improve the dispatch process at the KKA.

Tom was promoted to the KKA Fire Management Officer position in June of 2007 only to be seriously challenged two weeks later when the most devastating fire in the history of the Kenai, in terms of structure loss, occurred. The Caribou Hills Fire burned more than 56,000 acres and destroyed 94 structures. Tom is looking ahead to the challenges as the Area's fire management officer.

Tom has had many highlights through the years, including being chosen by his peers as the KKA Employee of the Year in 1991. His biggest highlight to date occurred when he was given the privilege of being the co-logistics section chief for the 2006 National Association of State Forester's national convention held in Anchorage. Tom thoroughly enjoyed this challenging, yet very rewarding experience working with, and getting to know much better, many other DOF personnel across the State. When critiquing the convention's outcome, the leadership of the NASF could not find one negative thing to say about how to improve the Alaska team efforts and the experience they were given. That is a great tribute to a great team!

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION: 25 YEARS OF SERVICE

Photo by Dean Brown.

Martha Welbourn-Freeman

Marty's first job in DNR was in the Division of Lands as an intern in 1980. She went back to graduate school but returned to Alaska to research the impacts of the state's land disposal policy on fire management options. She started her career in DNR in land use planning, working on the original Susitna and Tanana Area Plans. Marty was project manager for the Kuskokwim Area Plan and Kashwitna Management Plan, and Susitna Forestry Guidelines. She managed the Division of Land's planning program from 1989 to 1992 and was Chief of the Land Resources Section from 1992 to 1994. Her job included management of DNR's surveying, appraisal, land-use planning, and public access programs.

Marty welcomed the move to DOF in 1994 where she could focus on forestry issues. She started as Deputy Director of Operations and is now statewide Forest Resource Program Manager. She has been instrumental in forest practices, forest management, and cooperative forestry programs. She

(continued)

(Martha Welbourn-Freeman, continued)
has extensive experience working with the Board of Forestry on numerous issues, legislation, and regulations – particularly noteworthy is her initiation of science and technology working groups to bring in expertise for specific issues before the Board. Key projects have been updates of the Forest Resources and Practices Act, the Tanana Valley State Forest Management Plan update, spruce bark beetle issues and litigation on the Kenai Peninsula, forest practices monitoring, interagency coordination on water resource issues, integration of cooperative programs with forest and fire management activities, and most recently the controversial Tongass forest management initiatives in Southeast Alaska and the redesign of cooperative forestry programs.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION: 20 YEARS OF SERVICE

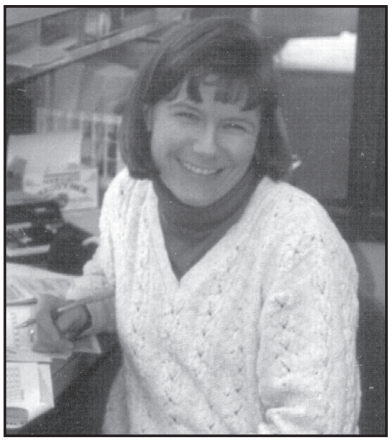


Photo by Tom Marok.

Barbara Phegley

Barbara Phegley began working for the Division of Forestry at the Kenai-Kodiak Area in 1987 as the Area clerk, a position that she still retains. Over her 20-years of employment Barbara has become one of the most experienced administrative persons in the Division, and one of the key Area staff. In her early years hiring emergency firefighters was rare and all the Area staff was expected to be IA ready during the fire season; including the clerk. As a result, Barbara got "up close and personal" experiences on several fires, working side-by-side with the fire fighters learning what goes on in the field. Like most Forestry personnel, Barbara became hooked on fire and worked her way up through the finance ranks from PTRC to FSCT2. Aside from working numerous fires, Barbara filled the Finance Section Chief position for the 1995 Kenai flood, the 2002 Tok-Denali Fault earthquake, and on an assignment to Canada with an Alaska short team. Additionally Barbara helped in the field doing resources work. Barbara, along with Linda Deardorff (then McGrath area clerk) and Richard Baird (then Delta area clerk) held the Forestry's first admin meeting which continues to be a annual, larger event. Barbara has been active in setting up and instructing Fire Business Management, and taking a lead position in updating the Division's Interagency Business Management Handbook. She also willingly took on the duties of registrar for the very successful 2006 National Association of State Forester convention in Anchorage, and did an outstanding job.

Barbara has been married to her husband David for 28 years. Their blended families included 6 children. She admits that "raising all those kids didn't leave much time for hobbies", but now that they are grown she hopes to spend more time for reading, hiking and x-country skiing. She is a proud Grandmother of 5 grandchildren. Since the children have left home Barbara and David have remodeled much of their house themselves and still remain happily married!

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION: 15 YEARS OF SERVICE

Photo by Dean Brown.

Arlene Weber-Sword

Born and educated in New York state, Arlene moved west and began her wildland fire career in 1978 with the BLM in Idaho Falls, ID. She came to Alaska in 1979, working two years for the BLM in wildland fire on the Kenai Peninsula and then with the BLM, Alaska Fire Service in Fairbanks through 1984. While with the BLM Arlene worked as a suppression crew member, fire suppression specialist, prevention technician, initial attack dispatcher and logistics dispatcher.

Arlene began working for the Division of Forestry in 1985 as the Logistics Technician in McGrath. She took a hiatus from 1987- 1989 to start a family. Arlene returned to Forestry and dispatch in McGrath in 1990. In 1995 she accepted the Communications and Technical System Coordinator position in Anchorage. Some notable accomplishments while in this position include the coordination of the installation of the data network into Forestry's offices statewide, the Division's migration to E-mail, and the coordination of all two way radio, voice and data communications into the new Palmer facility.

Since 2002 Arlene has worked as the Division's grant coordinator administering the State Fire Assistance, Volunteer Fire Assistance and Western Wildland Urban Interface grants into addition her duties of general grants administration for the division.

Arlene and her husband have a son in college and a daughter in junior high. In her limited spare time Arlene enjoys drawing, painting, mosaic and fused glass art as well as reading, hiking, ice skating and cross country skiing. Arlene has traveled to Brazil, the Caribbean, Europe, and has studied art in Mexico.

APPENDIX

Division of Forestry Directory

State Forester's Office
550 West Seventh Avenue, Suite 1450
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3566
269-8463 fax: 269-8931

State Forester
John "Chris" Maisch, 451-2666

Deputy State Forester
Dean Brown, 269-8476

Admin. Services Manager
Lex McKenzie, 269-8477

Fire Program Manager
Lynn Wilcock 451-2675

Forest Resources Program Mgr.
Martha Welbourn Freeman, 269-8473

Forest Planning
Vacant

Community Forestry Program
Patricia Joyner, Coordinator, 269-8465

Conservation Education
Matt Weaver, 269-8481

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

Forest Stewardship Program (Landowner Assistance)
101 Airport Road
Palmer, Alaska 99645
Jeff Graham, 761-6309, fax: 761-6201

State Fire Operations
P.O. Box 35005
Ft. Wainwright, Alaska 99703
356-5850 fax: 356-5855
Tom Kurth, Operations Forester
Logistics: 356-5645
Intelligence: 356-5671
Air Attack: 356-5852
Training, Anchorage: 269-8441

State Fire Warehouse
3700 Airport Way
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709-4699
451-2608 fax: 451-2690
Martin Maricle, State Fire Support Forester

Aviation Program
101 Airport Road
Palmer, Alaska 99645
761-6271
Steve Elwell, Aviation Mgr.

Northern Region

Northern Region Office
3700 Airport Way
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709-4699
451-2670 fax: 451-2690
Mark Eliot, Regional Forester

Fairbanks Area Office
451-2600 fax: 451-2690
Vacant, Area Forester
Fire line: 451-2626
Fire Ops. Fax: 451-2633

Northern Fire Management Office
451-2675 Fax: 451-2690
Marsha Henderson,
Fire Management 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: 895-2125
Al Edgren, Area Forester
Fire Line: 895-4227

Tok Area Office
Box 10 (Mile 123 Glenn Hwy.)
Tok, Alaska 99780
883-5134 fax: 883-5135
Jeff Hermanns, Area Forester
Fire line: 883-3473

Valdez/Copper River Area Office
P.O. Box 185
Glennallen, Alaska 99588
(Mi. 110 Richardson Hwy.)
822-5534 fax: 822-8600
Gary Mullen, Area Forester

Coastal Region

Coastal Region Office
2417 Tongass Ave. Ste 213
Ketchikan, Alaska 99801
225-3070 fax: 247-3070
Michael Curran, Regional Forester

Coastal Fire Management Office
761-6229 fax: 761-6227
Dennis Ricker (acting),
Fire Mgmt. Officer
Reception 761-6289
Logistics: 761-6218
Aviation Mgmt.: 761-6229

Mat-Su/Southwest Area Office
761-6389 fax: 761-6319
Ken Bullman, Area Forester
Fire line: 761-6311
Burn Permit: 761-6338

McGrath Field Office (Seasonal)
Box 130
McGrath, Alaska 99627
524-3010 fax: 524-3932
Ray Kraemer, Fire Management Officer
Fire line: 524-3366

Kenai-Kodiak Area Office
42499 Sterling Highway
Soldotna, Alaska 99669
(Mi. 92.5 Sterling Hwy.)
262-4200 fax: 260-4205
Ric Plate, Area Forester
Fire line: 260-3473
Burn Permit: 260-4269

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
2417 Tongass Avenue, Suite 213
Ketchikan, Alaska 99801
225-3070 fax: 247-3070
Vacant , Area Forester

APPENDIX

Boards and Commissions

Alaska Board of Forestry

Rob Bosworth, Environmental Organization Rep., Juneau
Matthew A. Cronin, Ph.D., Fish or Wildlife Biologist/Non-Gov., Anchorage
John (Jack) J. DiMarchi, P. Geo. Mining Organization, Chief Mine Geologist, Fairbanks
Erin McLarnon, Recreational Organization, Willow
Wayne R. Nicolls, Forester/Non-Gov., Juneau
William (Bill) E. Oliver, Commercial Fishermen's Organization, Kodiak
Rick Rogers, Forestry Industry Trade Assn., Vice President, Anchorage
Ronald (Ron) R. Wolfe, AK Native Corp. Rep. (ANCSA) Corporate Forester, Juneau

Tanana Valley State Forest Citizens' Advisory Committee

Brad Cox, Value-Added Processing
Chris Stark, Environmental Interests
Dan Rees, Private Forest User
Nancy Fresco, Forest Science
Edna Hancock, Native Community
Jim Ostlind, Recreation
Logan Ricketts, Tourism Industry
VACANT, Fish and Wildlife Interests
VACANT, Mining Industry
VACANT, Forest Industry
VACANT, Regional Representative - Upper Tanana Valley
VACANT, Regional Representative - Lower Tanana Valley

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
Thomas Boutin	March 1993 to January 1997
Dean Brown (acting)	January 1997 to July 1997
Jeff Jahnke	July 1997 to July 2005
Dean Brown (acting)	July 2005 to October 2005
John "Chris" Maisch	October 2005 to present

Forest Stewardship Committee, 2007

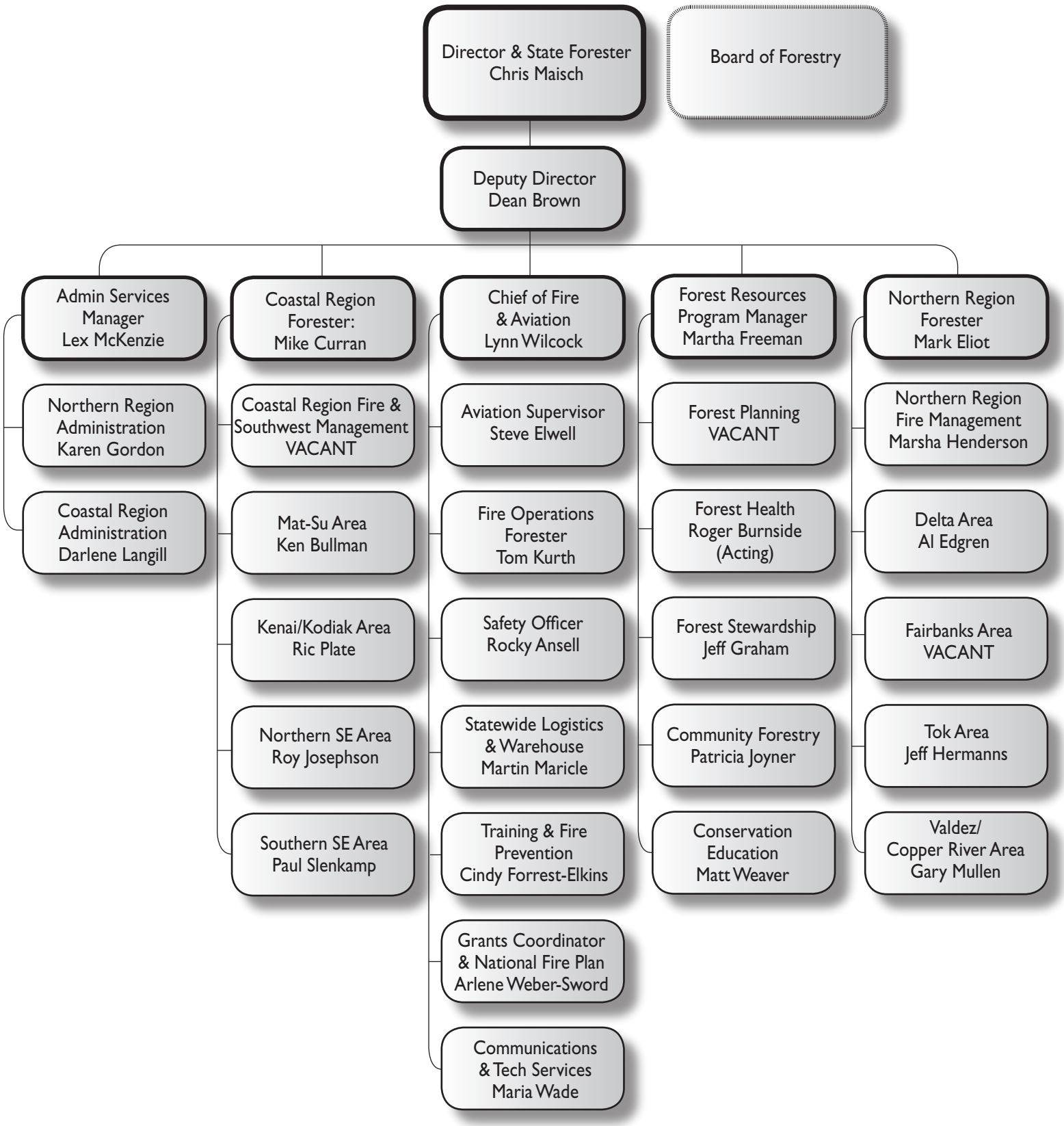
Ole Andersson, Kenai Watershed Forum, Soldotna
Doug Blossom, American Tree Farm System, Kenai
Alan McGuire-Dale, USDA Forest Service, Portland
Clare Doig, Forest Industry Representative, Anchorage
Jeff Graham, Alaska Division of Forestry, Palmer
Mike Green, Landowner representative, Fairbanks
Tony Gasbarro, Alaska Association of Conservation Districts, Fairbanks
Jimmy LaVoie, USDA Farm Service Agency, Palmer
George Matz, The Audubon Society, Homer
Mitch Michaud, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Kenai
John Mohorcich, Kenai Peninsula Borough, Soldotna
Jim Durst, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Fairbanks
Erica Reith, USDI Bureau of Indian Affairs, Juneau
Jake Sprankle, Tanana Chiefs Conference, Fairbanks
Bob Wheeler, Alaska Cooperative Extension, Fairbanks

Alaska Community Forest Council 2007

Elizabeth Bochynski, Chair, Juneau
Rick Ernst, Trapper Creek
Sharon Ferguson, Anchorage
Lester Fortune, Vice-Chair, Fairbanks
Mark Gordon, Anchorage
Hansel Klausner, Homer
Nickel LaFleur, Anchorage
Pat McArdle, Fairbanks
Lisa Moore, Secretary, Sitka
Nancy Moore, Palmer
Chris O'Brien, Treasurer, Anchorage
Corlene Rose, Anchorage
Peter Simpson, Ester
Holly Spoth-Torres, Anchorage
Jim Smith, Fairbanks

APPENDIX

Division of Forestry Organization



APPENDIX

2007 Actuals *NOTE: Dollar figures are in thousands (e.g., $40.5 is $40,500.00)*

FUNDING SOURCES	FOREST MGMT & DEVELOPMENT	FIRE PREPAREDNESS	FIRE ACTIVITY	NON-EMERGENCY MITIGATION	TOTALS
General Funds	$2,694.1	$12,793.6	$13,626.5	--	$29,114.2
Federal Funds	$552.8	$214.6	$12,236.8	--	$13,004.2
Capital Improvement Receipts (Fed, GF, & SDPR)	$646.5	$999.2	--	$311.5	$1,957.2
Interagency Receipts	$487.4	$219.1	$44.2	--	$750.7
Timber Receipts	$677.1	--	--	--	$677.1
Other (SDPR & ILTF)	$132.8	--	$588.1	--	$720.9
Totals	**$5,190.7**	**$14,226.5**	**$26,495.6**	**$311.5**	**$46,224.3**
POSITIONS					
Permanent Full-Time	43	32	--	--	75
Permanent Part-Time/Seasonal	6	179	--	--	185
Non-Permanent	12	1	--	--	13
Total Positions	**61**	**212**	**0**	**0**	**272**

FOREST MANAGEMENT & DEVELOPMENT COMPONENT

RENEWABLE RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT & SALES	COASTAL REGION	NORTHERN REGION	STATEWIDE	TOTAL
Board of Forestry	--	--	$12.4	$12.4
Forest Practices	$416.6	--	$65.5	$482.1
Forest Management	$829.1	$1,314.9	$310.0	$2,454.0
Anchorage School District Interns	--	--	$46.0	$46.0
Interagency Receipts	$230.5	$23.9	$233.0	$487.4
Stat. Desig. Program Receipts (SDPR)	$3.4	$3.8	$5.6	$12.8
Federal Cooperative Forestry Assistance	$19.1	$144.4	$794.7	$958.2
Capital Improvement Receipts (Other)	$172.7	$49.6	$18.8	$241.1
Subtotals	*$1,671.4*	*$1,536.6*	*$1,486.0*	*$4,694.0*
Director's Office	--	--	$496.7	$496.7
COMPONENT TOTALS	**$1,671.4**	**$1,536.6**	**$1,982.7**	**$5,190.7**

FIRE SUPPRESSION PREPAREDNESS COMPONENT

	COASTAL REGION	NORTHERN REGION	STATEWIDE	TOTAL
Preparedness	$3,298.0	$2,736.9	$6,758.7	$12,793.6
Interagency Receipts	$53.9	$56.3	$108.9	$219.1
Federal Cooperative Forestry Assistance	$208.9	$234.2	$499.1	$942.2
Capital Improvement Receipts (Other)	$169.9	$40.0	$61.7	$271.6
COMPONENT TOTALS	**$3,730.7**	**$3,067.4**	**$7,428.4**	**$14,226.5**

APPENDIX

2008 budget

NOTE: Dollar figures are in thousands (e.g., $40.5 is $40,500.00)

FUNDING SOURCES	FOREST MGMT & DEVELOPMENT	FIRE PREPAREDNESS	FIRE ACTIVITY	NON-EMERGENCY MITIGATION	TOTALS
General Funds	$2,911.0	$13,363.4	$6,712.5	--	$22,986.9
Federal Funds	$1,216.2	$833.5	$5,460.4	--	$7,510.1
Capital Improvement Receipts (Fed, GF, & SDPR)	$347.4	$348.6	--	$250.0	$946.0
Interagency Receipts	$391.4	$256.5	--	--	$647.9
Timber Receipts	$781.6	--	--	--	$781.6
Stat. Desig. Program Receipts	$30.0	--	$1,500.0	--	$1,530.0
TOTALS	**$5,677.6**	**$14,802.0**	**$13,672.9**	**$250.0**	**$34,402.5**
POSITIONS					
Permanent Full-Time	44	32	--	--	76
Permanent Part-Time/Seasonal	5	180	--	--	185
Non-Permanent	12	--	--	--	12
TOTAL POSITIONS	**61**	**212**	**0**	**0**	**273**

FOREST MANAGEMENT & DEVELOPMENT COMPONENT

RENEWABLE RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT & SALES	COASTAL REGION	NORTHERN REGION	STATEWIDE	TOTAL
Board of Forestry	--	--	$9.1	$9.1
Forest Practices	$472.4	--	$64.7	$537.1
Forest Management	$943.2	$1,301.7	$332.2	$2,577.1
Anchorage School District Interns	--	--	$47.5	$47.5
Interagency Receipts	--	--	$391.4	$391.4
Stat. Desig. Program Receipts (SDPR)	--	--	$30.0	$30.0
Federal Cooperative Forestry Assistance	--	--	$1,216.2	$1,216.2
Capital Improvement Receipts (Other)	--	--	$347.4	$347.4
Subtotals	*$1,415.6*	*$1,301.7*	*$2,438.5*	*$5,155.8*
Director's Office	--	--	$521.8	$521.8
COMPONENT TOTAL	**$1,415.6**	**$1,301.7**	**$2,960.3**	**$5,677.6**

FIRE SUPPRESSION PREPAREDNESS COMPONENT

	COASTAL REGION	NORTHERN REGION	STATEWIDE	TOTAL
Preparedness	$3,273.9	$2,647.7	$7,441.8	$13,363.4
Interagency Receipts	--	--	$256.5	$256.5
Capital Improvement Receipts	--	--	$348.6	$348.6
Federal Cooperative Forestry Assistance	--	--	$833.5	$833.5
COMPONENT TOTAL	**$3,273.9**	**$2,647.7**	**$8,880.4**	**$14,802.0**