



DIVISION OF FORESTRY & FIRE PROTECTION

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

STATE OF ALASKA | DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



Alaska Department of Natural Resources

Division of Forestry & Fire Protection 2025 Annual Report

The mission of the Division of Forestry & Fire Protection is to protect the lives and property of Alaskans from wildfire and manage Alaska’s forests to provide a sustainable supply of forest resources.

The Division of Forestry & Fire Protection:

- 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 value added and fuel wood commercial use, and provides permits for personal use
- Protects water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, and ensures reforestation through appropriate forest practices and administration of Forest Resources and Practices Act
- Manages the Southeast, Haines, and Tanana Valley state forests, totaling 2.1 million acres
- Administers the federally funded Community Forestry, Forest Health Protection, Forest Stewardship, and Good Neighbor Authority programs
- Gives technical assistance to owners and managers of forested land

The State Forester’s Office is in Anchorage. The division has regional offices in Fairbanks and Palmer, and other offices throughout the state. As of December 2025, the division had 113 full-time, 198 part-time/seasonal, and 13 non-permanent positions.

ALASKA STATE FORESTERS

Earl Plaurde	October 1959 to June 1968
William Sacheck	July 1968 to June 1974
George Hollett	July 1974 to June 1976
Theodore Smith	July 1976 to April 1982
John Sturgeon	May 1982 to June 1986
George Hollett (acting)	July 1986 to February 1987
John Galea	March 1987 to May 1988
Tom Hawkins (acting)	June 1988 to December 1988
Malcolm “Bob” Dick	January 1989 to November 1992
Dean Brown (acting)	December 1992 to February 1993
Tomas Boutin	March 1993 to January 1997
Dean Brown (acting)	January 1997 to July 1997
Jeff Jahnke	July 1997 to July 2005
John “Chris” Maisch	October 2005 to February 2021
Tim Dabney (acting)	February 2021 to June 2021
Helge Eng	June 2021 to March 2024
Norm McDonald (acting)	March 2024 to January 2025
Jeremy Douse	January 2025 to present

For online copy of annual reports, go to
<http://forestry.alaska.gov/overview>



Cover photo (top): Tok River harvest unit from Young’s Negotiated Timber Sale in the Tanana Valley State Forest. *Tom Cheney/DFFP*

Cover photo (bottom): Young’s Negotiated Timber Sale units located along the Tok River in the TVSF. *Tom Cheney/DFFP*

Above: View of young growth harvest in Unit 2 of Vallenaar Bay GNA sale in the Southeast State Forest, looking toward USFS land. *Tom Cheney/DFFP*

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State Forester Comments



Jeremy Douse collecting spruce cones near Standard Creek Road in the Fairbanks Area.

As I complete my first year as Alaska's State Forester, I'm continually impressed by the scope of this division's work and the many moving parts you manage every day. The services we provide across the state are extensive, and each of you should be proud of the impact you make.

I'm grateful for the opportunity to support your efforts and serve in this role.

This year brought significant change. Our federal land management and fire protection partners are undergoing reorganizations similar to what we experienced in recent years, and in some ways are still navigating. Both the Forest Service and the Department of the Interior are shifting in meaningful ways, and while the full impact on our work is still emerging, the management team is monitoring developments closely.

Our Good Neighbor Authority program continues to grow, especially with the U.S. Forest Service. We have active projects with both the BLM and the Forest Service, however the Forest Service has an increased interest in expanding state partnerships and that has created an opportunity for us to build our capacity. We are positioning ourselves to help deliver federal timber to industry and support restoration work on the Tongass and Chugach National Forest.

We are also advancing our goal of operating at Preparedness Level 3 primarily with Alaska-based resources. This remains a key priority for the division and will strengthen our ability to meet the state's protection needs while managing costs. Achieving this requires modern facilities that support training, briefings, gear storage, and equipment maintenance.

Our primary mission includes protecting communities from wildfire, improving forest health, and supporting both the forest products industry and personal use of Alaska's forests. Active forest management is a responsibility shared across the division. Beyond responding to fire and manipulating vegetation for a desired future condition, whether reducing fuels to protect communities or improving forest health, is central to our mission. These efforts are interconnected, and together they define a core skillset we provide the state. Maintaining the skills and professionalism needed to serve Alaskans effectively is essential. It is a significant responsibility and one I take seriously.

As opportunities arise, I encourage you to step into leadership roles that support your growth and make room for the next generation of foresters and firefighters. Thank you for your dedication, skill, and commitment to this work.

Jeremy Douse
Alaska State Forester

Forestry Program Overview

The Division of Forestry & Fire Protection’s Forestry Program manages three state forests, offers timber to commercial entities and for personal use on state land, and implements cooperative forestry programs that assist private landowners and communities while monitoring forest health issues statewide. The forestry program also works closely with the fire protection program to implement fuels reduction and mitigation projects that protect communities, private property, and other values across the landscape. During complex fire incidents, foresters serve as jurisdictional agency administrators, representing the interests of state land management agencies to incident management teams.

The forestry program has reached ten-year-record levels of timber sales in southern Southeast for the second consecutive year to meet the goals of Governor Dunleavy’s timber bridge program, intended to supply the Southeast timber industry until timber from other landowners becomes available. The 2025 sale volume was roughly double the ten-year average, reflecting the herculean efforts of DFFP foresters and contractors within and outside the Southeast Area Office.

In 2025, the division advanced cooperative forest management with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) through ongoing Good Neighbor Authority work in Southeast Alaska. The division also expanded forest inventory, wood utilization, and market-support efforts that inform management decisions and support emerging opportunities such as biomass, carbon, and local wood products. Important silviculture work also progressed through a Capital Improvement Project, including precommercial thinning in Southeast to improve future timber productivity and forest condition.

Long-range planning efforts continued across multiple regions, including updates to forest management plans in the Interior, Southeast Alaska, and Southcentral Alaska. Foresters from across the program also served as Resource Advisors on Interior fires in 2025, helping improve the division’s ability to respond to resource impacts by addressing fire suppression repair needs with Alaska-specific expertise in forests, vegetation, soils, and other sensitive resources like permafrost.

Following Division Director Helge Eng’s retirement in 2024, Jeremy Douse was confirmed in January 2025 as Division Director and State Forester, after which Ashley Reed List stepped into the deputy director position for the Forestry Program.

Members of the forestry program pose for a photo during the annual forest resources meeting in front of the Alaska state seal. *Emily Rooks/Alaska Department of Law*



Forest Practices Implementation

On State, Other Public, & Private Land

The Division of Forestry & Fire Protection administers the Alaska Forest Resources & Practices Act (FRPA) on private, trust, municipal, university, and state lands. The division reviews notifications of commercial timber harvest activity, conducts inspections, monitors compliance, provides training and public information, and takes enforcement action when necessary.

Under FRPA, a permit is not required before beginning operations. Instead, operators submit a Detailed Plan of Operations (DPO) to the division, which reviews the proposed operations for compliance with FRPA in coordination with the Departments of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and Fish & Game (ADF&G). With limited exceptions, the operator may begin operations after the 30-day review period has expired or when the review is completed, whichever comes first. Operators usually submit notifications well in advance of beginning operations and most reviews are completed in less than 30 days. When an activity is not completed within the applicable period, a renewal of operations is required before operations can proceed.

Notifications and Inspections

In calendar year 2025, DFFP received and reviewed eight Detailed Plan of Operations for new commercial timber harvest and/or road building, 30 DPO renewal of operations, and six new reforestation/ timber stand improvement DPOs for operations on private and other public lands. The eight new DPOs encompassed 650.8 acres of timber harvest and 3.6 miles of new forest road construction. Statewide, the division conducted 10 inspections on private and other public lands; 72 inspections on state timber sales; and 14 regeneration surveys on previously harvested DNR managed lands.

For operations on private and other public lands, the number of new DPOs submitted and acreage notified was less in 2025 than in 2024. The Southeast Area, Kenai-Kodiak Area, and Mat-Su Area all had a decrease in DPOs received and acres notified, while harvest activity in the Fairbanks Area remained steady.

New Notifications Detailed Plan of Operations				
	2022	2023	2024	2025
Southern SE	12	6	10	6
Northern SE	1	0	0	0
Mat-Su/SW	1	3	2	1
Kenai-Kodiak	6	10	4	0
Coastal Total	20	19	16	7
Fairbanks	1	1	1	1
Delta	0	0	0	0
Tok	0	0	0	0
Copper River	0	0	0	0
Northern Total	1	1	1	1
TOTAL	21	20	17	8

Harvest Acreage in New Notifications				
	2022	2023	2024	2025
Southern SE	1,095	637	569	286
Northern SE	13	0	0	0
Mat-Su/SW	131	689	259	300
Kenai-Kodiak	1,339	3,166	1,649	0
Coastal Total	2,578	4,492	2,477	586
Fairbanks	15	30	29	65
Delta	0	0	0	0
Tok	0	0	0	0
Copper River	0	0	0	0
Northern Total	15	30	29	65
TOTAL	2,593	4,522	2,506	651

Road Miles Notified				
	2022	2023	2024	2025
Southern SE	10.2	4	6	2
Northern SE	1.9	0	0	0
Mat-Su/SW	0.5	4	3	1
Kenai-Kodiak	18.1	42	15	0
Coastal Total	30.7	50	24	3
Fairbanks	0.3	0	0.20	0.50
Delta	0	0	0	0
Tok	0	0	0	0
Copper River	0	0	0	0
Northern Total	0.3	0	0.2	0.5
TOTAL	31	50	24.2	3.5

Variations and Enforcement

No requests for variation to harvest timber within a riparian retention area on private or other public lands were received in 2025. No charging documents were issued by the division in 2025.

Effectiveness Monitoring

DFFP works with agencies and affected interests to prioritize effectiveness monitoring of FRPA and related research needs. The interagency Effectiveness Monitoring Working Group, including representatives from DFFP, USFS, ADFG, Mental Health Trust (MHT), DEC, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and three board members, last officially met in October 2024 to discuss potential needs related to forest road construction, maintenance, and long-term use under FRPA.

In August 2025, the Board of Forestry established a temporary Forest Roads Work Group to further evaluate whether a Science & Technical Committee process may be warranted. The work group met in October and November to clarify concerns and identify research needs related to forest road effectiveness and implementation under FRPA. The group included representatives from the board, DFFP, MHT, Alaska Forest Association, DEC, ADF&G, Chugach Alaska Corp., and Sealaska.

Compliance Monitoring

DFFP conducted Best Management Practice (BMP) compliance monitoring on most FRPA and state timber sale inspections in 2025. The division completed 55 compliance monitoring scoresheets on state and private/other public land. The data shows strong compliance and implementation rates of BMPs in all regions. A rating of 5 indicates the BMP was consistently and effectively implemented where applicable; a rating of 1 means the BMP was rarely implemented where applicable or was implemented ineffectively. Region I averaged 4.3 on 335 rated BMPs, with 87% of the BMPs scoring 4.0 or greater. Region II averaged 5.0 on 14 rated BMPs with 100% of the BMPs scoring 4.0 or greater. Region III averaged 4.8 on 51 rated BMPs with 96% of the BMPs scoring 4.0 or greater. The number of scoresheets completed and BMPs rated in all regions was lower in 2025 than 2024, primarily due to less activity. The BMPs that scored 3 or lower, therefore requiring corrective action, were few and primarily related to waste disposal and active road maintenance.

Training

The division's area and regional staff provide training for operators, contractors and landowners in a variety of formats, ranging from formal classroom presentations to informal sessions during field inspections or DPO reviews. In 2025, no formal training sessions were provided for agency staff, operators, their contractors, or landowners. A multi-day training session in March 2026 is being scheduled for DFFP northern region staff; with additional training needs for 2026 being evaluated. In addition to in-person offerings, DFFP maintains a series of FRPA training modules on its website. The series includes 20 PowerPoint modules covering topics such as stream classification, riparian standards, road construction and maintenance, stream crossings, reforestation, timber harvesting, inspections, compliance monitoring, enforcement, and more. These materials are available at: <http://forestry.alaska.gov/forestpractices>. Additional modules on enforcement, prosecution coordination, and hearing officer duties are available internally for division employees.

Board of Forestry

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

Generating jobs

In 2025, the board continued to support job creation through a sustainable and viable timber industry, particularly in Southeast Alaska, where state timber offerings and Good Neighbor Authority projects help offset reduced sales from the USFS on the Tongass National Forest. The board emphasized continued implementation of the Alaska Lumber Grading Program to expand use of locally produced construction materials, and investments in forestry and fire staffing capacity needed to maintain a consistent timber program and support long-term industry stability statewide.

BOARD OF FORESTRY

Jeremy Douse

State Forester, Ex-officio
Chair

Bill Morris

Fish/Wildlife Biology
Non-Governmental
Fairbanks

Denise Herzog

Mining Organization
Fairbanks

John Rusyniak

Recreational Organization
Tok

Keith Coulter

Forester
Non-Governmental
Glenallen

Eric Nichols

Forest Industry Trade Assn.
Ketchikan

Nathan Lojewski

Alaska Native Corporation
Anchorage

Brian Kovol

Environmental Organization
Anchorage

Vacant

Commercial Fisherman's
Organization

Wildfire and risk management

The board emphasized the importance of Alaska's integrated forestry and fire protection model in supporting preparedness and efficient use of staff and equipment. They continued to support sustained investment in hazardous fuels reduction, highlighting recent fuel break projects near Fairbanks as examples of how proactive treatments improve firefighter safety, support evacuation, and reduce risk to communities and timber resources statewide.

Forest Practices Act Effectiveness

The board reviewed 2025 interagency compliance monitoring results and again found the Alaska Forest Resources and Practices Act to be effective statewide, with high implementation rates for BMPs and no impaired waters attributed to forestry activities. The board reaffirmed its support for FRPA as a balanced framework that protects fish habitat and water quality while supporting sustainable timber and fishing industries, emphasized the importance of restoring DEC field participation in monitoring, and encouraged timely appointment to the vacant commercial fishing representative seat to maintain balanced stakeholder representation.



Left: Board members (Brian Kovol at left) get a behind the scenes look at the Plant Materials Center seed storage and testing facility in Palmer, where DFFP's tree seed repository for reforestation projects is kept. **Right:** Board member Eric Nichols examines a log deck at Alaska Birch Works in Big Lake during a field trip in August. *John Rusyniak/Board of Forestry*

Forest Resource Management & Development

The forest management & development component of the forestry program supports the mission to provide a sustainable supply of forest resources to Alaskans, strengthen rural economies, and expand opportunities for value-added wood products and local employment. In 2025, the division advanced these goals through statewide timber sale activity, continued implementation of Good Neighbor Authority projects in Southeast Alaska, strategic forest inventory and data development to inform management and biomass opportunities, and technical assistance that supports long-term, sustainable forest management across state and partner lands.

Efforts to strengthen the forest products sector and market opportunities in Alaska advanced this year with both federal and state funding support. The Wood Utilization Team (WUT) found solid footing with funding from the USDA Forest Service Wood Innovations to build on the success of the Alaska Lumber Grading program—run in cooperation with the University of Alaska Fairbanks Cooperative Extension—which has now trained and certified 156 individuals. In addition, the division began implementing projects funded through the Silviculture Capital Improvement Project, completing 515 acres of precommercial thinning on the Southeast State Forest to improve future timber productivity and forest condition.



A Society of American Foresters field trip view white spruce lumber from Young's Timber Inc. 10 year negotiated timber sale for the local manufacture of wood products. *Tom Cheney/DFFP*

State and Federal Projects

Shared Stewardship Agreement

The State of Alaska and the USFS entered discussions to draft and execute a Shared Stewardship Agreement. When finalized, the agreement will outline how the state and the USFS will collaborate to conduct active forest management on National Forest System (NFS) lands in Alaska, including under the Good Neighbor Authority. The current draft of the agreement is expected to be finalized and executed during early 2026.

Good Neighbor Authority

The Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) stems from the 2014 Farm Bill that allows the USFS to enter into agreements with state forestry agencies to accomplish active forest management projects on NFS lands. GNA projects are designed to accomplish priority forest and resource restoration activities on NFS lands, including commercial timber harvest, and may, but are not required to, involve state or other non-federal lands and resources. In 2025, the DFFP hired a long-term non-permanent GNA forester to assist the division in its goal of expanding the GNA program in Alaska and has included a new, permanent GNA forester position in its budget request for FY 2026. DFFP is actively pursuing collaborative GNA projects on the Tongass and Chugach National Forests.

Good Neighbor Authority Master Agreement

In November 2016, DFFP executed a GNA Master Agreement with the U.S. Forest Service Region 10 that outlines how the state and USFS will collaborate to complete GNA projects in Alaska. To date, two GNA Supplemental Project Agreements (SPAs) have been tiered to this master agreement. Staff representing DFFP and USFS began discussions in 2025 to draft and execute a new agreement to replace the current agreement, which expires October 1, 2026. The effort to draft a new agreement has been temporarily suspended pending final updates to the master agreement template by the USFS Grants & Agreements staff. A new agreement is scheduled to be drafted and executed during early 2026, and the parties envision it will include provisions of the Shared Stewardship Agreement.

GNA Supplemental Project Agreements

GNA Supplemental Project Agreements (SPAs) are generally tiered to the master agreement, but stand-alone SPAs may also be executed outside the master agreement framework. Existing SPAs tiered to the 2016 Master Agreement include projects involving commercial timber sales located on Kosciusko Island and Gravina Island (Vallenar Bay). A new stand-alone SPA involving the planned harvest of commercial young-growth timber from NFS and state lands near Thomas Bay was executed during fall 2025. DFFP and USFS staff also collaborated to begin developing new GNA SPAs involving commercial timber harvest in various locations including North Prince of Wales Island, South Revilla Island and Heceta Island. New GNA project planning and development will continue in 2026, with the goal to offer a new GNA sale on the northern portions of Prince of Wales Island during early fall 2026.



Above: Southeast Area Forester Greg Staunton checks log brands on Kosciusko Island. *Tom Cheney/DFFP* **Below:** Natural regen in a unit harvested under the Kosciusko GNA Young Growth Timber Sale. *Mike Cooney/DFFP*



Kosciusko Island GNA SPA

The “GNA SPA for Forest Restoration Services – Kosciusko” was executed in May 2017. The project was the first large-scale young-growth timber sale in Southeast Alaska and involved the harvest and removal of more than 30 million board feet of predominantly young-growth Sitka spruce and western hemlock timber from NFS lands located on Kosciusko Island. An independent third-party, after-action review (AAR) of the project was completed during summer 2025 by Terra Verde, Inc. The final AAR report documented the history of the project, including implementation challenges associated with the timber sale, and provided actionable recommendations designed to improve future young-growth timber sales.

The timber sale contract closed during summer 2025 and the GNA SPA expired on December 31, 2025. DFFP continues to work with USFS staff at the Washington and regional offices to formally

close out the project. Unspent revenue from the Kosciusko Island project was retained by the state and transferred to the Thomas Bay GNA SPA. These funds will support completion of timber harvest and resource restoration activities under the Thomas Bay SPA, as well as USFS-led natural regeneration stocking surveys on areas harvested under the Kosciusko GNA SPA.

Vallenar GNA SPA (Gravina Island)

The “Vallenar Timber Sale Contract Administration and Forest Restoration Services” GNA SPA was executed on August 31, 2021, and involves timber harvest and resource restoration within a project area located on Gravina Island. The Vallenar GNA SPA was the first true GNA project in Alaska by including harvest of both state and federal timber. The Vallenar Bay timber sale involves about 16 MMBF of timber from a mix of old- and young-growth Sitka spruce, western hemlock, red alder, western red cedar, and Alaska yellow-cedar. The project requires about three miles of road construction on state and federal land and timber will be harvested through a combination of ground-based and cable logging systems.



Left: A portion of a young growth harvest area on state lands included in the Vallenar Bay GNA Timber Sale. *Tom Cheney/DFFP* **Right:** Decked young growth logs on state lands from the Vallenar Bay GNA Timber Sale. *Mike Cooney/DFFP*.

Harvest of all state timber and road construction on the federal portion of the project area was completed during 2025, but timber harvest on NFS lands was paused during most of the 2025 operating season due to the refusal of China to accept imported timber from the United States. Federal timber located in cutting units on NFS lands was not felled or yarded except for right-of-way (ROW) timber cut in order to construct the road on NFS lands. After China began accepting import of Alaskan timber in November, the federal ROW timber was loaded, hauled and scaled. The GNA SPA and the state timber sale contract were both modified in fall 2025 to extend the project performance period for an additional year. Harvest and removal of the remaining federal timber and the final project close-out is projected to occur in fall 2026.

Thomas Bay GNA SPA

The “Thomas Bay Harvest and Restoration GNA SPA” was executed in September 2025. The project involves resource restoration on NFS lands and the planned harvest and removal of both state and federal timber. Project development will be ongoing in 2026, and timber included in the project is scheduled to be advertised for sale in fall 2026, prior to the end of the federal fiscal year.

Tongass Young Growth II Transition Challenge Cost Share Agreement



Foresters in a young growth stand in Southeast State Forest. Tom Cheney/DFFP

This joint state and federal Challenge Cost Share Agreement (CCSA) was funded by the USFS as part of its Southeast Alaska Sustainability Strategy in 2022. Additional Consolidated Payment Grants to the state from the USFS also supplied project work funding. The CCSA was modified in 2025 to add additional funding and an expanded scope of work.

Young Growth Working Forest Analysis

Terra Verde, Inc. submitted its final young growth timber analysis report in summer 2025 to the state and USFS. The report and its associated deliverables provide comprehensive stand-level mapping, as well as growth and yield projections for all young-growth timber stands in Southeast Alaska over the next 100 years, across both federal and non-federal ownerships.

In addition to the original scope of work in the CCSA, Terra Verde is identifying and mapping roughly 300,000 acres within the Tongass National Forest where the state and USFS could collaborate on active forest management under GNA. These areas include opportunities for both resource restoration and timber harvest. This work is ongoing with deliverables due by end of March 2026.

The Tongass Collaborative

With the CCSA modified and funding added, the Tongass Transition Collaborative was renamed The Tongass Collaborative (TTC) and institutionalized as a formal initiative of the Southeast Conference. The TTC is overseen by DFFP staff and facilitated by Connie Lewis, a former associate of Meridian Institute, with support from the executive director of Southeast Conference, Robert Venables. The TTC represents a broad spectrum of stakeholders in Southeast Alaska and continues to advise the USFS as it revises the Tongass Land and Resource Management Plan. As part of this work, the collaborative is developing a Community Alternative to present for consideration during the plan revision process, which is projected to be presented to the USFS in February 2026.

Southeast Alaska All-Landowners Group

The Southeast Alaska All-Landowners Group continued efforts to create Alaskan forestry training opportunities and programs. The DFFP project manager convened a Forestry Training Working Group composed of forest managers and representatives from the University of Alaska system and technical training entities, including AVTEC and Generations Southeast. The group met for the first time in December and envisions creating occupational endorsements in various functional areas of forestry offered through Generations Southeast in 2026. The series of occupational endorsements would provide the academic and field training necessary to successfully complete the Society of American Foresters' certification exam for a nationally recognized forestry technician credential.

The group held a meeting of its membership during fall 2025 and anticipates holding its next meeting to coincide with the Alaska Forest Association's spring meeting in March 2026.

Forest Inventory

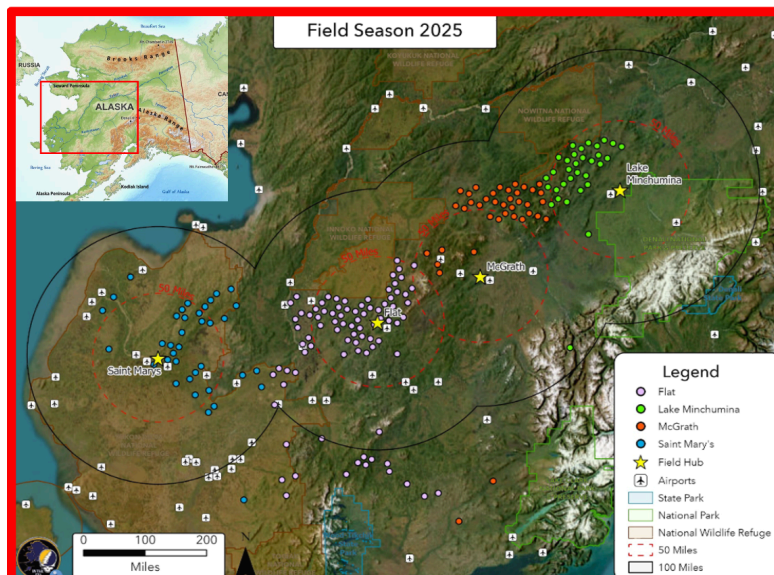
Forest Inventory at the Division of Forestry & Fire Protection (DFFP) manages four inventory projects funded by five federal grants. The federal grants fully or partially supported a total of 25 positions: 20 positions at DFFP, two positions at the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF), and three positions at the U.S. Forest Service (USFS). Furthermore, a comprehensive training program was developed on inventory protocols, safety training such as wildlife safety and non-lethal response, aviation requirements including A-100 Aviation Safety, and additional field teamwork skills such as leadership and chainsaw operation.

Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA)

The Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program is a national effort led by the USFS. The main goal of the FIA project is to provide critical information to assess the state of forest ecosystems across the United States. In Interior Alaska, the USFS has partnered with the DFFP since 2014 to install and measure permanent plots through a joint venture agreement. Following a national protocol, the program monitors the status and trends of all public and private boreal forestlands across Interior Alaska, the region located between the Alaska Range and the Brooks Range. This effort is of particular importance in Interior Alaska, where forests are experiencing some of the largest climate-driven changes in the United States, along with increasing natural disturbances such as wildfire, permafrost thaw, and insect outbreaks.



At every inventory plot, a suite of information is recorded to characterize trees (including species, size and health state), understory vegetation, soils and woody debris. DFFP field crews have successfully conducted the Interior Alaska FIA program for nine years and have met all USFS quality



control metrics. In 2025, 195 plots were measured by two inventory teams working in alternating 12-day shifts between June 1 and August 28. The inventoried plots were located in four areas of interest centered around Saint Mary's, Flat, McGrath and Lake Michumina.

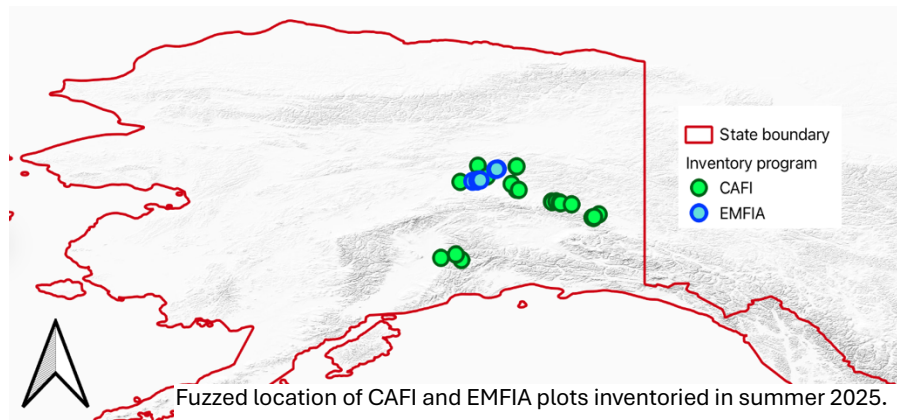
Left: Fuzzed location of FIA plots inventoried in summer 2025. *DFFP*

Above: Inventory crews trained on inventory protocols including trees, soil, and vegetation. *DFFP*

Cooperative Alaska Forest Inventory (CAFI)

The CAFI program was implemented by UAF in 1994 and is the longest running forest inventory program in Alaska. The main goal of this project is to characterize the ecological changes of forest ecosystems across Alaska in response to environmental changes. The data collected over the past three decades have been used by scientists to better understand ecological processes such as forest successional trajectories, effect of climate and disturbance on ecosystem productivity, and tree growth and mortality. The outcomes of this research have been published in a number of scientific and technical publications.

CAFI is composed of a network of 200 road-accessible plots distributed from the Kenai Peninsula to the foothills of the Brooks Range. Each plot is remeasured every five to 10 years. Despite the program's importance, CAFI was discontinued in 2015 due to a lack of resources at UAF. DFFP restarted the program in 2020 and has continued to secure grant funding to support remeasurement efforts since 2021. In 2025, 27 plots were remeasured across Interior and Southcentral Alaska.



Evaluation and Monitoring Program – FIA Pilot Plots Remeasurement

In 2023, DFFP received three years of funding from USFS Evaluation and Monitoring Program to remeasure FIA pilot plots near Fairbanks to assess forest health conditions and to develop a protocol for early detection of forest health issues related to factors such as stress, drought, or herbivory using both field and remote sensing data. This work is part of a larger research effort led by DFFP to collect ground truth data. The USFS and the University of Washington collected mobile laser scanning (MLS) data, and NASA collected airborne remote sensing data that will be used to assess forest health status and estimate additional stand attributes such as tree height and diameter. The data collected are essential for developing predictive models and evaluating their accuracy. In 2025, DFFP remeasured nine plots, bringing the total number of plots remeasured to 96 since 2023.



DFFP staff measuring tree circumference during FIA pilot plot remeasurement. *DFFP*

Forest Planning

The Division of Forestry & Fire Protection reviews and comments on a wide range of state and federal agency land-use plans to help ensure the division and the public have continued access to forest resources on state lands. In addition, DFFP works to encourage the salvage of timber when forested land is cleared for rights-of-way or other purposes and provides stipulations for protecting forest health. The forest planning team distributes interagency reviews to appropriate DFFP foresters and collects and submits consolidated comments.

The forest planning staff of 2025 included Trevor DoBell-Carlsson, Cooperative Forestry Programs Manager & Forest Planner, and Geneva Preston, Forest Planner.

Planning activity continued to focus on revisions to state forest management plans spurred by the passage of Senate Bill 48 in 2023, granting the state authority to develop carbon management projects on state lands. With the resulting potential for carbon offset projects within state forests, the planning team is in the process of revising state forest management plans to include carbon offset projects in DFFP's multiple use management framework. The revised Tanana Valley State Forest (TVSF) Management Plan, initiated in 2021, was approved by DNR Commissioner John Boyle in May 2025.



Forest Planner Geneva Preston in the Southeast State Forest on Kosciusko Island. *Tom Cheney/DFFP*

The amendment process for the Haines State Forest Management Plan was initiated in May 2024. In summer 2025, the scoping period resumed with expanded efforts to cultivate community engagement, broaden representation of interest groups in the Chilkat Valley in the DFFP planning process, and provide additional opportunities for the public to meaningfully engage in development of the draft plan before its release for public review. Public review of the draft amended management plan will tentatively occur in spring 2026.

The Susitna Forestry Guidelines, published in 1991, are also under revision and will be superseded by the Susitna Valley Forest Management Plan. Public scoping meetings were held in Palmer, Willow, the Talkeetna area, and virtually to introduce the public to the planning process and the purpose of a forest management plan in the Susitna Valley. The planning team is in the initial stages of draft development, consolidating comments received to date and preparing tentative outlines for each management plan chapter.

Other projects for the planning team this year included assisting with development of an initiative to expand Alaska's state forest system, assisting with DFFP recommendations for regulation reduction in response to Governor Dunleavy's Administrative Order 360, developing a DFFP Transportation Strategic Plan, and continuing development of a forest planning handbook and other resources to guide future planners through the DFFP planning responsibilities.

Coastal Region Forest Management

The division's Coastal Region is made up of the Southeast, Kenai-Kodiak, and Mat-Su-Southwest Area Offices. Each area is responsible for the enforcement of the Alaska Forest Resources and Practices Act across the region. Work includes the review and authorization of timber harvest activities on private, municipal, and other state lands within each area. Field inspections on all activities are managed by area staff to ensure operators comply with the Best Management Practices required for the execution of timber sales.



Southeast Area

The Southeast Area covers the Alaska panhandle from Haines to Ketchikan. The public and private land in the area has traditionally provided most of the timber volume and revenue harvested from forested land in Alaska. The area offices manage the Southeast State Forest and the Haines State Forest and administer the Alaska Forest Practices Act on extensive private holdings within its jurisdiction. The predominate ownership in the area is federal land managed by the USFS. With the curtailment of active federal old growth timber management in 2024 and the downsizing of the federal workforce in 2025, increased interest has been realized on the limited state forest land base in the area.

Southeast State Forest

Viking Lumber Company, located in Klawock, harvested several timber sales on Prince of Wales Island that it acquired from the state in 2024. In 2025, Viking purchased an additional 6 MMBF of timber under a purchaser layout contract on the north end of Prince of Wales Island, adjacent to their previous operations. This timber is relatively remote with economic and logistical challenges. Timber from these operations was negotiated with the intent to be predominately processed in Alaska and marketed to a variety of users in the lower 48 and the Pacific Rim.

Western Gold Cedar Products of Thorne Bay purchased 2.5 MMBF of timber north of the community of Thorne Bay in a competitive sale environment.



Above: A log transfer facility supporting harvest from the Southeast State Forest. *Tom Cheney/DFFP.*

Right: Operations at a harvest from the Southeast State Forest by a local contractor employing residents of Prince of Wales Island and the Edna Bay community. *Tom Cheney/DFFP*

Alcan Timber Inc. of Ketchikan intermittently harvested state timber associated with the Vallenaar GNA project near Gravina Island. Timber from these operations was shipped primarily to Pacific Rim round log markets, including China and Japan, with a minor component going to the lower 48 and Canada. Closure of the China market in early 2025 due to tariff restrictions slowed sale activity for most of the year. Despite the tariffs with China, Alcan Timber purchased and harvested a combination of young and old growth state timber sales on Kosciusko Island totaling 13.3 MMBF. Timber from these sales has been exported to a variety of Pacific Rim markets with the majority held in inventory. The China market reemerged at the end of the 2025 calendar year.



Left: Forester Mike Cooney in a stand with previous precommercial thinning treatment. *Tom Cheney/DFFP*

Area staff conducted planning and design efforts for new timber sales scheduled in 2026 near the communities of Naukati, Coffman Cove and Hollis.

Precommercial thinning (PCT), a treatment used to improve conditions in regenerating forest stands, was completed on 211 acres adjacent to Coffman Cove at the end of FY 2025 and on 304 acres near Naukati at the beginning of FY 2025 within the Southeast State Forest. DFFP plans to continue this yearly trend using a dedicated state capital fund. PCT typically increases the usable sawlog volume per acre and significantly shortens potential rotation age of a regenerating timber stand. These aspects are important to the state given the limited land base in Southeast and projected long-term focus of the area for local employment from forest resources. Added interim benefits of PCT have also provided extended values to wildlife compared to regenerating forests without this treatment, particularly with respect to deer and potential subsistence values.



Left: Forester Mike Cooney in a stand with previous precommercial thinning treatment. **Right:** Mike Cooney shows a stand without precommercial thinning treatment. *Tom Cheney/DFFP*

Haines State Forest Resource Management Area

The Haines State Forest Resource Management Area, located in the northern Southeast (Lynn Canal) portion of the area, balances resource use on the Haines State Forest with conservation of resources on the Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve. This unique public land management strategy designates 260,000 acres of forest resource management adjacent to 44,000 acres of important conservation habitat dedicated to the protection of eagles and the fisheries that provide their main food source. The resource use on the Haines State Forest includes commercial timber harvest, commercial and public recreation, commercial and public hunting activities, and subsistence activities primarily associated with the forest access provided by the development of the forest road system.

In 2025, the division sold seven small negotiated timber sales to four local operators. One additional large sale remains under active contract, although harvest operations have not yet begun. These small negotiated sales, totaling roughly 60 acres, support local mills by providing timber for lumber production and fuel wood for nearby communities. This production has remained steady over the past 30 years of management. The large sale was purchased by an operator from outside the area who is facing challenges related to development of a log transfer facility needed to move timber to market, as well as impacts from the loss of potential markets due to recent tariffs. Harvest operations will require mobilization of the contractor to the area and are expected to occur in 2026. This sale has the potential to grow the timber industry in the Haines State Forest and across Southeast Alaska. Planning for future harvest operations in 2025 focused on access logistics in the Ski Hill area south of Mosquito Lake to support long-term resource development for local timber operators, as well as in the Chilkat Ridge area to support long-term development of the division's large sale program.

The division annually maintains more than 40 miles of legacy forest roads for the continued access required by commercial forest users and the public. Seasonal impacts are typical on this road system. The division performed several maintenance projects associated with flooding events and repaired failing roadbed retaining walls on one bridge crossing to maintain access to the forest for all user groups.

Following direction from the 2023 legislative session, the division is amending the Haines State Forest Management Plan to provide for the sale of carbon offsets on state lands and to better align the plan with the statute establishing the Haines State Forest Resource Management Area. This effort marks a significant change in management strategy by opening timber harvest across the entire commercial forest lands, expanding the area of consideration for harvest activities from the previous policy of 42,000 acres to 74,360 acres. During 2025, the division continued drafting policy language for agency review and engaged with local organizations and community members to provide information on the direction and process of public involvement in the policy change. This important work to inform and involve the public and local communities in drafting a responsible management plan for the Haines State Forest will continue in 2026. The plan supports implementation of the state's goals for growth in the timber industry while maintaining public access to state resources.

Kenai-Kodiak Area

The Kenai-Kodiak Area includes the Kenai Peninsula and Kodiak Archipelago, totaling approximately 10 million acres. The area supports initial attack wildland fire response and manages state timber sales and the Forest Practices program in Regions I and II. Timber is marketed as firewood, round logs for dimensional milling, and house logs. Multiple small mill operators on the Kenai Peninsula rely on timber harvest from state lands to produce dimensional lumber, cabin kits, and dunnage. Firewood demand from the public remains high and land management agencies coordinate to provide public access for gathering firewood. The state maintains eight miles of forest roads on the Kenai Peninsula, providing access for the public, future commercial timber sales, and personal use firewood gathering.



House log sale from the Kenai Peninsula.

Diane Campbell/DFFP

A total of 29 permits for 104 cords of firewood were issued in 2025, close to the typical number of requests for firewood permits each year. Two small areas were designated for public use firewood cutting, and log decks stacked during fuels reduction projects were also made available to the public. Staff work with individuals requesting permits to locate areas in smaller parcels that meet their needs. DFFP worked in conjunction with other agencies to provide firewood to the public.

In Region I, no DPOs were received for timber harvest on Afognak Island on Afognak Native Corporation lands during 2025. Due to the loss of the Chinese market, no harvesting or transporting occurred during 2025. The logging operation is on hold and will re-evaluate whether or not to continue harvest operations in February 2026. One Forest Resource Practices Act (FRPA) inspection was completed on Afognak Island to check the mainline road and bridge conditions. No violations were found or reported.

In Region II, two personal-use house log sales were completed. Additionally, Terra Verde was contracted to provide forest inventory and analysis of timber stands on State of Alaska lands on the Kenai Peninsula. Timber type maps were created and field inventory data was collected in 2024. The data was reviewed and utilized in determining units with sale potential for the creation of the 2026-2030 Five Year Schedule of Timber Sales. The final report was received April 2025 and is available to view online at <https://forestry.alaska.gov/timber/forestinventories>.

Potential Future for a Kenai State Forest

Public meetings were held in Ninilchik, Soldotna, Seward, Homer and online to collect public input and gauge the level of support for a future state forest on the Kenai Peninsula. Division staff shared information on Alaska's state forest system and active forest management, along with the legislative process required for developing a new state forest.



Natural regeneration from the 2024 Bear Lake sale in Seward *Diane Campbell/DFFP*

Fuels Treatments

Wharf Avenue - Phase 1 of the fuel break along Warf Avenue was completed and personnel started on Phase II. Fire personnel are thinning fuels and decking logs, which are made available for public use firewood. Smaller material is put into slash piles to be burned.

Alut Avenue - A 200-foot buffer is being created along the north side of Alut Avenue, 3.5 miles southeast of Anchor Point. Logs are being decked for public firewood and slash piles are burned.

City of Kenai Fuels Reduction Project - A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was signed with the City of Kenai for fuel mitigation work in the Forest Lane area. After the initial project was completed, the city requested to continue a second phase of fuels reduction in areas near the Forest Lane project. Phase III has been developed and submitted for funding. A new MOA is being completed for Phase III of the project.

City of Kenai Slash Disposal Site – An MOA was signed with the City of Kenai to provide an area for slash disposal by the public and to staff the area with city personnel. A new MOA is being completed to continue operations.

Mat-Su & Southwest Area

The Matanuska-Susitna/Southwest Area is the largest administrative district managed by the DFFP, totaling 100 million acres. Managed from the Palmer office with a seasonal operating base in McGrath, this diverse area includes the Municipality of Anchorage, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson and the numerous communities that dot the landscape across the southwest corner of the state. The area supports forest management activities on general DNR lands and wildland fire response throughout the large area. The Palmer office houses one of two main, statewide wildland firefighting support facilities and provides critical resource distribution for suppression operations in Alaska.



Smoke rises above the Anchorage skyline from the East-West connector fuels mitigation project. *Stephen Nickel/DFFP*

Timber Sales

The area provides timber to Alaskans in three methods to meet the local resource demand: over the counter (OTC) timber sales, personal use firewood through the online permitting system, and negotiated sales. In 2025, 114 acres of commercial timber (423.9 MBF/184, 483 CF) was sold as OTC sales. This year, the area sold 85 permits and 279 cords of firewood for personal use via DFFP's online system. An additional 19 small negotiated personal use permits provided Alaskans with 119 cords of firewood, 1,000 board feet of sawlogs, and 800 lineal feet of house logs from a combined total of 166 acres of state land. The total volume sold across the area represents a slight increase from last year in the supply of forest products to the public and private commercial sector.



Forestry staff monitor pile burning on the East-West Connector fuel break on the Anchorage hillside.

Stephen Nickel/DFFP

Fuels Mitigation

Collaboration between fire and forestry programs continues in the Mat-Su/Southwest Area for daily operations and on strategic initiatives like fuels mitigation work. The 1.25-mile-long East-West Connector fuel break on the Anchorage hillside demonstrates successful internal and interagency collaboration to plan and complete strategic mitigation work that balances public safety, recreation opportunities, and retention of forest values.

Work on the Sunset fuel break near Houston continues, with staff continuing mitigation work in riparian corridors. The area held planning meetings and site visits to develop new projects, like the Palmer Hay Flats and South Fork Eagle River fuel projects. The area continues to make progress on the DFFP and ADF&G collaborative Little Granite Creek prescribed burn. Project work includes fine tuning the prescription, addressing the scope of the project, and planning for implementation when conditions and resources align.

Unmanned Aerial Systems

The area is integrating unmanned aerial systems (UAS) into its workflow and collaborating with the division's UAS program to expand our capabilities division-wide and establish best practices for data collection, processing, storage and retrieval.



Resource Forester Kate Thoden and Mat-Su Area Forester Stephen Nickel give a UAS demonstration to the Board of Forestry. *John Rusyniak/Board of Forestry*

Planning

Three meetings were held to engage community members to collect input and feedback as the area develops a Susitna Valley Forest Management Plan that will supersede the 1991 Susitna Forestry Guidelines. The effort was featured in KTNA's Su Valley Voice, a monthly program that discusses timely issues or events relevant to the upper Susitna Valley. Stakeholder meetings were also facilitated to address concerns and questions related to public land access and forest management designated use.

Staff from the area additionally participated in stakeholder engagement meetings, provided input, and conducted editorial review for the Municipality of Anchorage's Community Wildfire Protection Plan development. Anchorage's new CWPP was adopted in December 2025.

Outreach

This year, area resources staff participated in several outreach events including a community wildfire awareness event at the Alaska Zoo, Willow Area Community Organization (WACO), the Alaska Community Forestry Council, Board of Forestry, and local job fairs. The area's annual Christmas tree cutting media release generated increased interest from previous years and resulted in five media interviews.

Northern Region Forest Management

Foresters in the division’s Northern Region, covering Interior Alaska, manage forest resources under the principles of multiple use and sustained yield by maintaining a supply of timber for the local industry, supporting personal-use firewood harvest for Alaskans, and allowing for other beneficial uses. On state lands, forest management is focused on the 1.8-million-acre Tanana Valley State Forest, which encompasses land from the Kantishna River east to the Canadian border, and other state lands classified forestry as the primary use. The State of Alaska provides 70 percent, or more, of timber to the interior.



View of the Tok River in Tanana Valley State Forest Unit 14. *Tom Cheney/DFFP*

From several offices located in the communities of Fairbanks, Delta Junction, Tok, and Glenallen, DFFP northern region staff support an active timber sale program providing harvest opportunities to local loggers, raw material for commercial timber and fuelwood processors, and work within an adaptive framework designing sales and projects to reflect a dynamic timber market. This includes sometimes adjusting priorities to salvage timber that was damaged by insects, floods, fire, and windstorms before the resource is lost. Active forest management in the region provides many benefits and services to Alaskans, including developing and maintaining an extensive forest infrastructure network, supporting the division’s fire protection program—including hazardous fuels treatments—and developing projects that enhance or maintain fish and wildlife habitat.

Road work and maintenance are an ongoing need in the region. The region’s heavy equipment section continued work on road projects to ensure continued multi-use access to the Tanana Valley State Forest. Forestry staff were able to reestablish proper road surface profiles on most of the mainline forest roads before the busy 2025 fire season.



Heavy equipment section maintains the Cache Creek bridge in TVSF. *Egil Fjellheim/DFFP*

Fairbanks-Delta Area

Outside of DFFP offices in Southeast Alaska, the Fairbanks-Delta Area commercial timber program generates the highest revenue to the state and sells the most volume from timber sales. Sales that go unsold after an auction will either remain available for purchase as an over the counter sale or may be reevaluated by foresters for feasibility.

The Fairbanks-Delta Area office held three timber sale auctions in 2025, one in Delta Junction and two in Fairbanks. These auctions typically feature a variety of timber sales with acreage and volumes offered to strategically meet the market demand for raw material including “green” and salvage when possible. Some purchasers often have multiple timber sales under contract.

Reasons for this may be to secure the availability of the resource beyond the current year, to shift operations away from “green” sales and bring salvage timber to market before it deteriorates and is no longer viable, or if the road access to the sale or harvest area is designated as “winter only” and others as “all-season.” As of December 2025, there were 102 open timber sales contracted with 41 different operators located throughout the Fairbanks-Delta Area.



In October, a small scale auction was held in Fairbanks to satisfy a growing demand for lower volume/acreage timber sales. As a result, eight sales were offered and five were sold. Auction totals for the timber sales sold amounted to 53 acres and a volume of 1,182 CCF.

In December, a second auction was held in Fairbanks that featured a list of timber sales with acreage and volumes more reminiscent of auctions in years past. Five “green” timber sales sold for a combined total of 285 Acres and 7,211 CCF of volume. This auction also offered fire salvage harvest opportunities from some of the 2025 fires.

Top: Nenana Ridge salvage sales. *Tom Cheney/DFFP* **Middle:** Log deck from Fairbanks-Delta area small negotiated sales. *Kevin Breitenbach/DFFP* **Left:** Fairbanks Area Resource Forester Andrew Allaby finds opportunities for personal-use firewood and commercially viable salvage sales after the 2025 fire season. *DFFP*

The community of Delta Junction is located 100 miles southeast of Fairbanks and market demand has generally favored fire salvage and fuelwood harvests over sawlogs. DFFP sold eight fire salvage timber sales and one green spruce sawlog sale for a total of 237 acres and 1,371 CCF of timber at the Delta auction this year.

The Fairbanks office also executed a trio of AS 38.05.118 long term 10-year negotiated timber sales in 2025. The 247-acre Evergreen/Bond Brothers timber sale near the community of Anderson will help fill demand for green spruce sawlog in the Mat-Su area. 124 acres of birch fuelwood are under contract with Alaska Birch Works in the Nenana Ridge area, and Jack Frost Logworks purchased 4,771 CCF of spruce sawlog on 141 acres in the Rosie Creek area. Of the 59 sales offered this calendar year (47 .120 sales; nine .115 sales; three .118 sales; one OTC sale), 41 sales are under contract with roughly 25,100 CCF across 1,253 acres in the Fairbanks-Delta Area.



Fire salvage timber area from the Pogo Mine Road Fire in Delta. *Tom Cheney/DFFP*

Personal use firewood sales decreased since last year, but usage levels remain within 10-year average levels. The Fairbanks office sold 146 personal use firewood permits for a total of 561 cords, and the Delta office sold 29 personal use firewood permits for a total of 127 cords. DFFP provides information to communities on the benefits of burning dry, well-seasoned wood amid the ongoing danger to human health caused by high levels of particulate matter when burning “wet” wood.

Regeneration surveys continue every spring. The Fairbank-Delta area foresters received support from the state’s forest inventory crews to help clear a backlog of harvested units yet to be surveyed. Staff were able to survey 610 acres with this added capacity, about three times the typical yearly volume. Sale units surveyed were terminated between 2010 and 2024, some being harvested portions of sales that began regenerating while harvest continued intermittently elsewhere in the sale. Sales were active from one to 10 years, with a median around 4.5 years to complete harvest. Scarification (tilling or blading the soil surface) is a common post-harvest treatment to promote natural regeneration.



Left: Resource Advisors (READs) assessing suppression repair needs during the 2025 fire season. *Kevin Meany/DFFP*
Right: Tok River regeneration surveys. 77 acres surveyed with fixed plots units harvested in 2010. *Tom Cheney/DFFP*



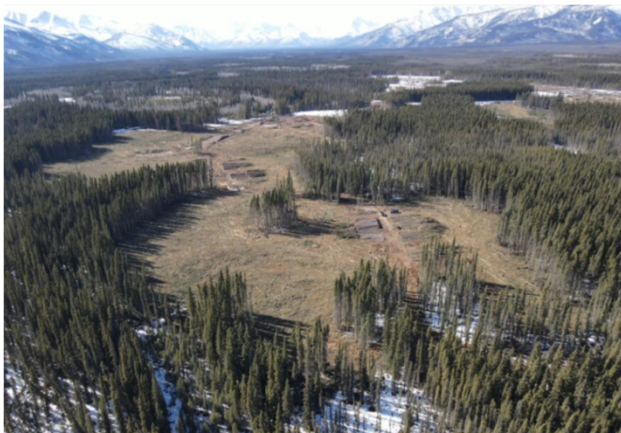
Young's Timber Inc. 10-year negotiated sale for the local manufacture of wood products. *Tom Cheney /DFFP*

Tok and Copper River Area

The Tok and Copper River Areas encompasses approximately 30 million acres in the eastern Tanana River Valley and the Copper River Basin. This ownership is comprised of private, state, federal and native corporation lands. Offices in Tok and Glennallen support initial attack wildland fire response for the region and manage state timber sales. The Alaska Gateway School District (AGSD) continues to harvest from state sales. If biomass heating is also developed at the Northway school, the AGSD would request additional acres under the charitable clause in DNR policy for biomass.

The highest demand for materials from state lands continues to be fuel wood, followed by logs and biomass in the Tok area. House logs and saw timber are requested in the Copper River Area, but fuel wood is the top required resource. Seasonal access and broken ownership patterns continue to be the limiting factors for personal use fuel wood in the Copper River Basin. The Tok area previously had an abundant supply of fire killed spruce, which has now dwindled or succumbed to rot over the years. DFFP is exploring other accessible firewood cutting locations in the area.

Work continues on an AS 38.05.118 long term 10-year negotiated timber sale between the state and Youngs Timber, Inc. The units consist of dense, mature white spruce stands. The goal for these units is to create openings and promote moose browse during early successional seral stages of stand development. Area staff have had discussions with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) regarding unit shapes to benefit habitat, prescribed fire, and other post-harvest treatments to promote browse species. The DFFP area office works closely with ADF&G biologists on timber harvest activities and wildlife habitat enhancement projects to minimize impacts of road construction and timber harvest on fish and wildlife resources. The division considers every timber harvest an opportunity to maximize the habitat benefit for wildlife where feasible, and additional projects with dual goals of timber harvest and habitat enhancement are being planned.

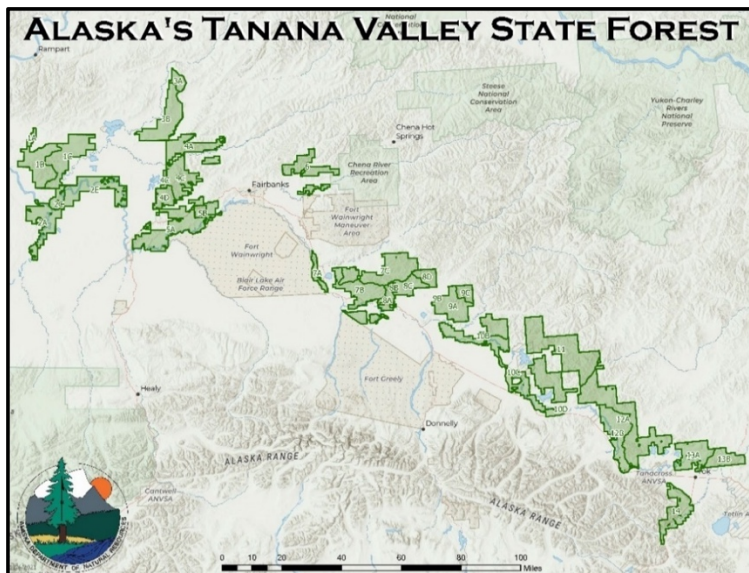
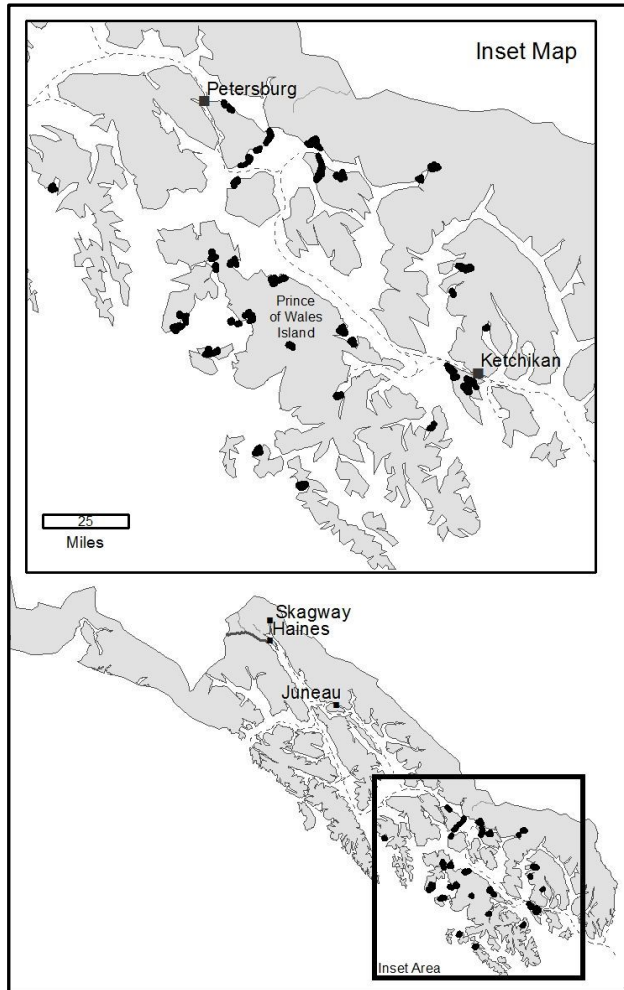
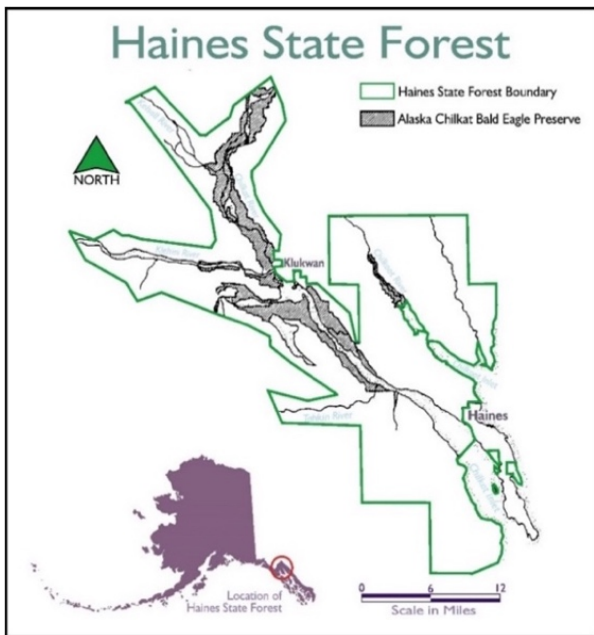


Left: Young's negotiated timber sale units located along the Tok River Valley. *Tom Cheney /DFFP* **Right:** Ice bridge across the Tok River to Young's negotiated timber sale. *Tom Cheney /DFFP*

Alaska's State Forests

Alaska's three state forests are managed for a sustained yield of a variety of resources.

Haines State Forest	Established in 1982 286,208 acres
Tanana Valley State Forest	Established in 1983 1.78 million acres
Southeast State Forest	Established in 2010 48,472 acres



In 2025, legislation was introduced to add roughly 600,000 acres of previously identified forest classified state lands to the **Tanana Valley State Forest**.

By designating these lands as state forest, management will be transferred to DFFP with a primary focus on timber management. This will ensure the production, use, and replenishment of timber resources while still supporting other beneficial uses of public lands in the Tanana Valley.

2025 Timber Sale Data

Commercial Timber Sales on State Land Fiscal Year 2025 (MBF - 1,000 board feet)				
Area	Sales	Acres	Volume MBF	Sale Value
Southern Southeast	5	1,050.00	21,907.13	\$472,070.00
Northern Southeast	2	20.00	112.79	\$8,176.50
Kenai - Kodiak	0	0.00	0.00	\$0.00
Mat Su	1	4.10	81.00	\$5,000.13
Coastal Total	8	1,074.10	22,100.92	\$485,246.63
Fairbanks	13	400.90	4,464.60	\$257,942.95
Delta	8	210.20	488.75	\$21,260.39
Tok	0	0.00	0.00	\$0.00
Copper River	0	0.00	0.00	\$0.00
Northern Total	21	611.10	4,953.35	\$279,203.34
STATE TOTAL	29	1,685.20	27,054.27	\$764,449.97

Timber Sale Revenue (in thousands dollars)	
FY16	212.8
FY17	688.5
FY18	477.4
FY19	464.3
FY20	91.7
FY21	265.4
FY22	1,420.0
FY23	1,182.7
FY24	1,922.6
FY25	2,763.3

Commercial Sales Harvested Fiscal Year 2025 by Area				
Area	Sales	Acres	Volume MBF	Sale Value
Southern Southeast	5	736.00	21308.14	\$1,708,560.01
Northern Southeast	7	49.00	183.62	\$10,249.25
Kenai - Kodiak	2	14.30	178.96	\$4,290.00
Mat Su	0	0.00	0.00	\$0.00
Coastal Total	14	799.30	21670.72	\$1,723,099.26
Fairbanks	13	303.39	2115.40	\$108,813.15
Delta	20	192.80	1021.11	\$55,871.40
Tok	3	57.86	657.72	\$34,853.02
Copper River	0	0.00	0.00	\$0.00
Northern Total	36	554.05	3,794.23	\$199,537.57
STATE TOTAL	50	1,353.35	25,464.95	\$1,922,636.83

Firewood Permits Issued & Cords Sold		
FY21	653	2,279
FY22	564	2,872
FY23	403	1,848
FY24	382	1,768
FY25	352	1,355

Ten-Year Record of Timber Volume Sold - MBF					
	Coastal Southeast	Coastal Southcentral	Northern Region	State Total	Statewide Sales
FY16	401	50	7,864	8,315	34
FY17	8196	378	2,749	11,323	38
FY18	5,269	206	2,477	7,952	22
FY19	13,673	152	2,165	15,990	31
FY20	262	250	1,809	2,321	31
FY21	39071	150	3,124	42,345	30
FY22	4,870	0	4,728	9,599	23
FY23	11,764	0	3,122	14,886	28
FY24	23,707	11	9,900	33,618	57
FY25	22,020	81	4,953	27,054	29

Cooperative Forestry Programs

Cooperative Forestry is made up of the Forest Health, Forest Stewardship, and Community Forestry Programs, which provide technical and financial assistance to a diverse group of landowners and managers. The USDA Forest Service funds these programs, contributing over \$1 million in federal funds annually to the state economy. The programs assist Alaska Native corporations, individual private forest landowners, businesses, local governments, and non-profits who contribute matching funds.



Forest Health Program

The Forest Health Program is a primary source of forest health expertise in the state and provides a wide range of assistance to forest landowners, resource managers, and others. The program focuses on monitoring native and invasive forest pests, pest management, technology development, and technical assistance. In a typical year, Alaska's forests are primarily monitored through cooperative DFFP and USDA Forest Service Forest Health Protection (FHP) aerial detection surveys. These aerial detection surveys are an indispensable tool in documenting the location and extent of many active forest insect infestations, abiotic damage events, and some disease

damage. The data recorded from the annual aerial detection surveys offer a snapshot of statewide conditions, though they generally do not represent the acres affected by pathogens, many of which are not visible from the air.

In 2025, however, with funding support from FHP, aerial surveyors from DFFP were solely responsible for surveys statewide. As a result, the 2025 aerial surveys were somewhat limited in scope and prioritized assessment of existing and proposed state forest lands as well as known outbreaks. A summary of the 2025 survey results is included within the Surveys Overview subsection below. Some of this survey content as well as more detailed information pertaining to surveys and monitoring efforts for forest insects, tree diseases, invasive plants, abiotic disorders, and other biotic damage agents will be included in the annual Forest Health Conditions in Alaska report published by FHP in collaboration with DFFP and other key cooperators.

Staffing

In early 2025, the program filled the Forest Health Forester position, which had been vacant for much of 2024. This brought Grace Graham into the Forest Health team and the program back to full staffing. Grace had recently returned to Anchorage after completing an M.S. degree in Natural Resources Science and Management at the University of Minnesota.

Above: Forest Health Forester Grace Graham (L) and Community Forestry Program Manager Josh Hightower (R) collect mountain hemlock branch samples as part of a western blackheaded budworm egg survey in Turnagain Pass on the Kenai Peninsula. Egg surveys of this insect are used to help predict future defoliation. *Jason Moan/DFFP*

Outreach

In 2025, DFFP forest health staff connected with roughly 665 individuals, providing forest health assistance or information. Outreach contacts in 2025 more than doubled compared to 2024 (320 individuals). Program staff gave presentations to a wide variety of audiences and at various events, including a Denali National Park weekly speaker series, the Alaska Pesticide Applicator Workshop, the Western Forest Insect Work Conference, the Alaska Invasive Species Workshop, and others. Spruce beetle remains the primary topic of interest. There were also several opportunities for engaging with students and promoting forestry jobs in Alaska through mentoring events at West and Dimond High Schools, a science night at Chugiak Elementary, and working with the Anchorage Youth Employment in Parks program.

Western Bark Beetle Initiative

DFFP continued its Western Bark Beetle Initiative (WBBI) cost-share program to assist non-federal landowners with bark beetle prevention, suppression, and restoration efforts. In 2025, four landowner WBBI awards were completed, totaling 77.4 acres.

Applied Research

DFFP forest health staff continued to assist in evaluating improved methodology for protecting trees from spruce beetle. In 2025, this work consisted of field logistics and support for a project conducted in cooperation with the USFS Pacific Southwest Research Station and FHP. This work is summarized below. Program staff are also collaborating on spruce beetle and forest health-related projects with researchers at the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

SPLAT-MCH spruce beetle tree protection studies

SPLAT-MCH (ISCA Technologies, Inc) is a biodegradable paste infused with the spruce beetle anti-aggregation pheromone MCH. This year was the fifth year of this effort and improved upon previous studies by evaluating different SPLAT-MCH dosages in a trapping assay located on Ahtna, Inc lands. A summary of the 2025 SPLAT-MCH trial can be found in the following 2025 publication:

Audley, J. P., Fettig, C. J., Moan, J. E., Moan, J., Swenson, S., Mortenson, L. A., & Mafra-Neto, A., (2025). Semiochemical interruption of *Dendroctonus rufipennis* (Coleoptera: Curculionidae) in Alaska and Colorado, US. *Journal of Economic Entomology*, toaf166. <https://doi.org/10.1093/jee/toaf166>.

Surveys Overview

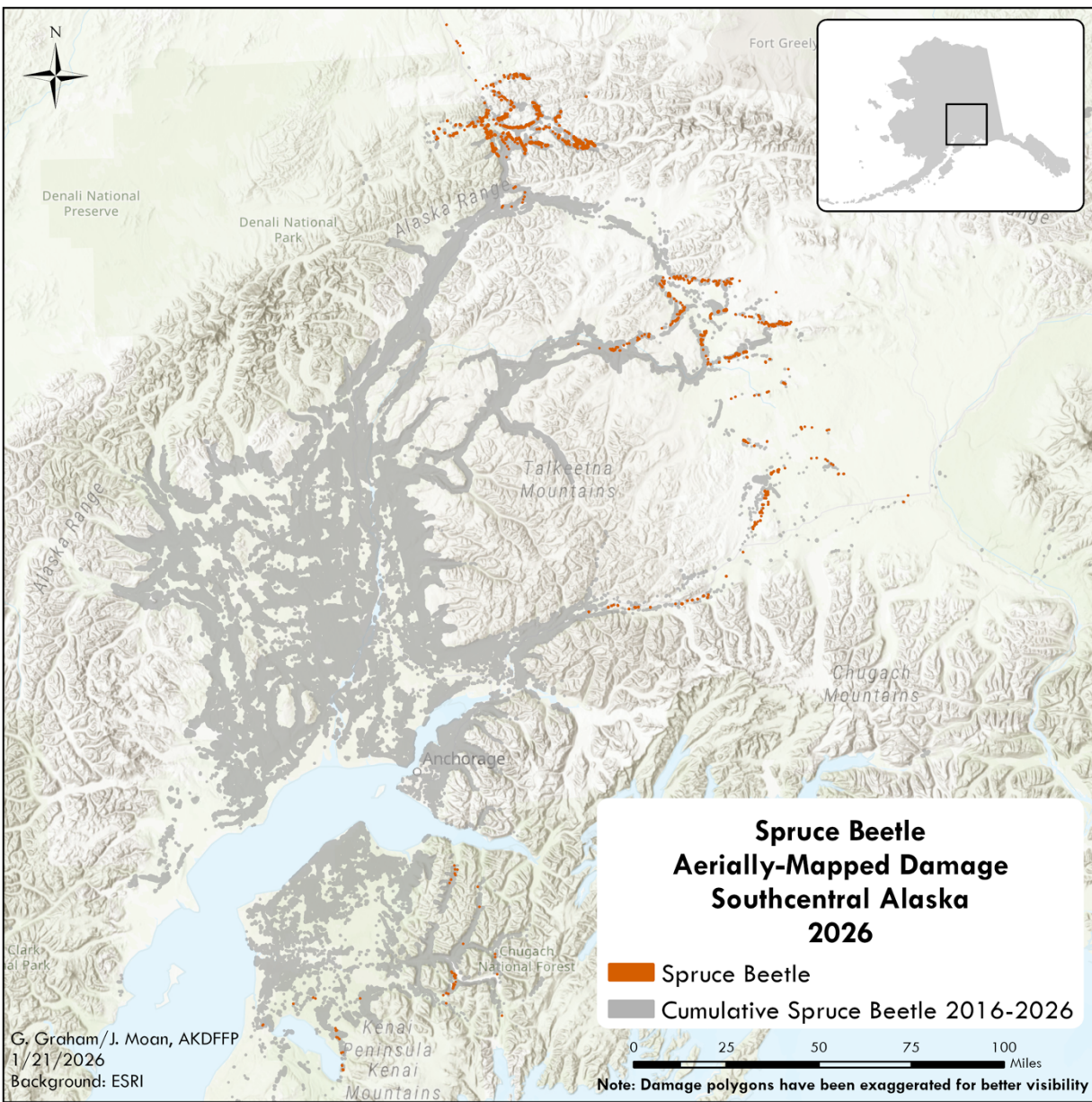
In 2025, DFFP staff mapped about 219,600 acres of forest damage on roughly 8 million acres flown during aerial surveys. In order of damage acreage observed, the top three damage agents documented during the surveys in 2025 were birch leafminers (122,900 acres), aspen leafminer (47,800 acres), and spruce beetle (7,800 acres). In addition to aerial surveys, DFFP staff conducted ground-based projects including: egg surveys for western blackheaded budworm on the Kenai Peninsula; damage surveys on ornamental and native larch for larch casebearer; evaluation of birch leafminer activity; diagnostic investigation of an aspen leaf disease; and trap-based monitoring for spruce beetle, northern spruce engraver, and larch casebearer at various locations.

Bark Beetles

Spruce beetle

While the 2025 aerial survey coverage statewide was reduced, coverage of the spruce beetle outbreak was a priority and the affected areas were well-covered. Statewide, spruce beetle activity was observed on only 7,800 acres in 2025 during aerial surveys. This figure represents a substantial reduction from that observed in 2024 (about 35,100 acres) and a continued and precipitous decline in the ongoing outbreak-level spruce beetle activity.

About 98% of the spruce beetle damage observed in 2025 was associated with the ongoing spruce beetle outbreak in Southcentral, which is now estimated to have impacted 2.26 million acres.



The outbreak continues to be most active in the southern Denali Borough and the eastern Matanuska-Susitna Borough. The 2025 activity observed within the outbreak-affected boroughs and census areas is summarized below, from north to south.

Denali Borough (5,300 acres; 14,650 acres in 2024): Activity continues, though reduced, with most occurring within the Yanert Fork River valley and those of its tributaries, as well as along Montana, Moody, and Healy Creeks. Scattered activity also persists in Denali National Park and Preserve along Riley and Hines Creeks and as far west as the Sanctuary River; surveys flew no further west in the National Park. The progression of the outbreak within the Denali Borough is being closely monitored.

Matanuska-Susitna Borough (2,050 acres; 14,900 acres in 2024): Most of the observed spruce beetle damage was in the eastern portions of the borough. Although mortality continues along the upper Susitna River around the Denali Highway crossing and nearby creeks, it is widely scattered and has notably declined compared to previous years. Occasional damage was observed along the upper Matanuska River and near Lake Louise.

Copper River Census Area (170 acres; 925 acres in 2024): Light and very scattered spruce beetle activity was observed southeast of Lake Louise along the Tolsona River as well as southwest of Lake Louise toward Slide Mountain.

Municipality of Anchorage (0 acres; 30 acres in 2024): No spruce beetle damage was observed within the Anchorage Municipality in 2025. Air survey coverage is typically limited over Anchorage.

Kenai Peninsula Borough (120 acres; 2,025 acres in 2024): After dropping to near endemic levels in 2024, spruce beetle activity continued to decline on the Kenai Peninsula in 2025. Damage acreage was limited and widely scattered in small pockets near areas previously affected by the outbreak, including around Tustumena, Kenai, and Cooper Lakes.

Elsewhere in the state, 120 acres with spruce beetle activity were mapped in the Interior, none of which were associated with the ongoing spruce beetle outbreak activity in the Denali Borough. Small, isolated pockets of mortality were recorded near Salcha and around Murphy Dome. Survey coverage in the Interior prioritized the Tanana Valley State Forest in 2025, which meant that previously observed areas of spruce beetle activity north of the White Mountains in Beaver Creek and Preacher Creek were not flown. Additionally, roughly 50 acres of scattered spruce beetle activity was documented in Southeast.

Northern spruce engraver

Northern spruce engraver activity was mapped on about 600 acres across the Interior. The majority of this damage was recorded near the western border of the Fairbanks North Star Borough from the Tatalina River to Minto Lakes. The remainder occurred in small pockets just northeast of Fairbanks and widely scattered along the Tanana River valley southeast of Fairbanks to around Dot Lake.

Defoliating Insects

Birch leafminers

Birch leafminers, which include two species of invasive sawflies, were in outbreak in parts of the Interior and Southcentral. Defoliation associated with these outbreaks was recorded across 122,900 acres with almost 75% occurring in the lower Susitna River valley and the northwest Kenai Peninsula, and the remainder occurring in the Fairbanks, North Pole, and Salcha area. A ground check indicated that much of the damage in Southcentral was attributable to late birch leaf edge miner (*Heterarthrus nemoratus*), while around Fairbanks both this and amber-marked birch leaf miner (*Profenusa thomsoni*) were prevalent.

Birch leafminer damage is most visible late in the season, and thus not often documented during aerial surveys unless a special late season survey is flown. Out of necessity, the 2025 aerial surveys occurred later in the field season than is ideal, which led to the documentation of these outbreaks. While birch leafminer outbreak activity has occurred regularly in the Fairbanks area in recent years, birch leafminer activity in Southcentral was not known to have been increasing, perhaps due to a spatial mismatch in where the outbreaks are occurring and where ground surveys typically occur.

Aspen leafminer

Aspen leafminer was responsible for about 47,800 acres of defoliation in 2025, a substantial decrease in activity from this insect than was mapped last year (182,900 acres in 2024). However, this discrepancy is likely due to the more limited survey coverage in the Interior this year compared to 2024; all recorded 2025 aspen leafminer activity occurred in the Interior.

Western blackheaded budworm

Western blackheaded budworm defoliation was observed on 2,400 acres in 2025, 93% of which was associated with an outbreak in mountain hemlock on the Kenai Peninsula, most notably in Turnagain Pass. Egg surveys conducted in the fall confirmed elevated population levels with continued damage predicted for next summer depending on insect survival over winter. In Southeast Alaska, observed western blackheaded budworm activity was minimal with less than 175 acres of defoliation recorded in the region in 2025 (3,000 acres were observed in 2024). Hemlock mortality associated with past defoliation from the now collapsed western blackheaded budworm outbreak, the hemlock sawfly outbreak that preceded it, or a combination of both continues to be documented across Southeast Alaska. Previously unmapped hemlock mortality attributed to these outbreaks was observed on 5,000 acres in 2025 (22,000 acres in 2024). Survey coverage in Southeast Alaska was somewhat reduced in 2025.



Late birch leaf edge miner damage on birch in the lower Susitna River valley. Jason Moan/DFFP

Larch casebearer

In April 2025, larch casebearer caterpillars were discovered infesting ornamental Siberian larch in Anchorage, Alaska. This marks the first known detection of larch casebearer in Alaska and the northernmost detection in North America. Since its initial introduction to the eastern United States in the late 1800s, larch casebearer has become established on both planted and native larch in much of North America south of the 50th parallel. During ground surveys, larch casebearer was widespread throughout the Anchorage Bowl and was additionally found on planted trees in Eagle River and Wasilla. Alaska’s only native larch species, eastern larch (*Larix laricina*), is not native to Southcentral Alaska, and larch casebearer has not been detected in urban plantings or natural larch stands of the Interior. Although unconfirmed, nursery stock is the most plausible source of introduction for larch casebearer in Alaska. This invasive insect is likely to be a nuisance pest in urban trees, but if it becomes established in the native larch stands of the Interior, growth losses or increased susceptibility to the native larch beetle (*Dendroctonus simplex*) may occur.



Larch sawfly larvae, some showing a defensive posture, on an ornamental Siberian larch in Palmer. Grace Graham/DFFP

State Forest Survey Summaries

Each year, aerial detection surveys cover portions of the Tanana Valley, Haines, and Southeast State Forests. In 2025, about 31,800 acres of damage were noted within or partially within the three forests, though the mapped damage was almost exclusively within the Tanana Valley State Forest (approx. 30,000 acres). The top three damage types (in terms of acres affected) for each forest are listed below, as is bark beetle activity if applicable; all acreages are rounded:



Forester Andrew Allaby (L) and Fairbanks Area Forester Kevin Breitenbach (R) help investigate reported bark beetle activity near Clear. Jason Moan/DFFP

Tanana Valley State Forest – Aspen leafminer (31,300 acres), birch leafminers (3,350 acres), and birch defoliation (3,075 acres). Additionally, scattered northern spruce engraver activity was observed on roughly 500 acres within the Tanana Valley State Forest; less than two acres of spruce beetle activity were observed.

Haines State Forest – Cottonwood defoliation (990 acres), previously unmapped sawfly/western blackheaded budworm-induced hemlock mortality (450 acres), and alder defoliation (450 acres). Additionally, roughly 50 acres of spruce beetle activity were documented within Haines State Forest.

Southeast State Forest – Spruce aphid (130 acres), yellow-cedar decline (45 acres), and previously unmapped sawfly/western blackheaded budworm-induced hemlock mortality (40 acres). No bark beetle damage was observed.

Forest Stewardship Program

The goal of the Forest Stewardship Program is to provide landowners with technical forestry assistance to guide their decisions about managing forest land. Landowners have a variety of goals for their land, including wildfire risk reduction, wildlife habitat improvement, privacy, scenery, firewood production, and leaving a legacy for future generations.

Funded through the U.S. Forest Service State, Private, & Tribal Forestry program and partially funded by the State of Alaska, this nationwide initiative responds to landowners' requests by preparing Forest Stewardship Plans that include field visits and incorporate the latest technical forestry advice. These plans often address forest health, reforestation, timber stand improvement, and creating defensible space from wildfire. In Alaska, the largest private landowners—Alaska Native corporations—are supported through sub-grants that allow them to hire private consulting foresters to prepare Forest Stewardship Plans. Plans for individual private landowners are primarily written by Division of Forestry & Fire Protection (DFFP) stewardship foresters.

By the Numbers

- Nationwide, 25 million acres are managed under a current Forest Stewardship Plan. In 2025, Alaska represented 11% of these acres.
- More than 1,127 Alaskan landowners and thousands of Alaska Native corporation shareholders have benefitted from Forest Stewardship Plans.

2025 Highlights

- Three Alaska Native corporations were awarded subaward-grants for fuel reduction projects to mitigate wildfire risk in high hazard areas.
- Three additional Alaska Native corporations were awarded subaward-grants to develop Forest Stewardship Plans that will encompass over **1,178,286 acres**.
- Thirty-Seven Forest Stewardship Plans covering more than **426,920 acres** were prepared for private forest landowners, including Alaska Native corporations and individual landowners.
- Five landowners started cost-share projects for wildfire risk mitigation and forest health improvement in the Kenai Peninsula, Matanuska-Susitna, and Fairbanks North Star boroughs.
- Distributed **25,000 white spruce seedlings** to private landowners, strengthening reforestation efforts and securing the long-term health of Alaska's forests for future generations.

Staff Updates

In April 2025, Jordyn Jackson joined the program's Kenai Peninsula office in Homer. Jordyn previously worked for the Forest Service in Cordova. Retired Stewardship Forester John Winters has continued working part-time, serving private forest landowners on the Northern Kenai Peninsula.

Alaska Native Corporations

Alaska Native corporations, the largest private landowners in Alaska, rely on Forest Stewardship Plans to guide their sustainable management practices. Sub-grants from the program help these corporations develop plans for goals such as biomass energy development, commercial timber production, forest health enhancement, forest resilience, wildlife habitat, carbon offset projects, and reforestation.

Since the program's inception in 1992, more than 76 plans covering over **10.3 million acres** have been written for Alaska Native corporations. As plans expire after 10 years, **3.2 million acres** are currently under sustainable management guided by these plans. The plans bring economic benefits to rural villages through sustainable timber development and restoration of previously logged areas, while enabling participation in the California and voluntary carbon credit markets.

Individual Landowners

- In 2025, Stewardship Plans covering **832 acres** were prepared for 34 private landowners. Goals included wildfire defensible space, spruce beetle mitigation, and reforestation.
- Since 1992, more than 1,161 individual landowners have adopted Forest Stewardship Plans, encompassing **53,000 acres**.
- Most plans are for landowners in the Matanuska-Susitna, Fairbanks North Star, and Kenai Peninsula boroughs.

Alaska Private Landowner Support Cost-Share Program

Through a new program launched in summer 2025, the Forest Stewardship Program helps landowners mitigate wildfire risks and improve forest health through cost-share payments funded by a Private Landowner Support Grant from the U.S. Forest Service. This cost-share program strengthens forest resilience, reduces wildfire risk, and promotes adaptive management practices. The program provides financial assistance for on-the-ground forestry practices including thinning, pruning, scarification, sanitation harvests, and invasive species removal. By supporting proactive forest management, the program addresses critical challenges such as wildfire threats, insect infestations, and declining forest health that increasingly affect Alaska's forest landscapes and surrounding communities.

Individual private landowners owning a minimum of five acres are eligible to participate through a rolling application process that continues until funding is exhausted or October 1, 2028. The program requires no landowner match and offers reimbursement up to \$15,000 per project based on flat rates for approved practices. Participation requires development of a Forest Stewardship Plan by DFFP staff, which outlines landowner objectives and recommended management practices. Regional stewardship foresters in the Kenai Peninsula, Anchorage/Mat-Su, and Fairbanks/Interior areas will assist landowners in determining eligibility and developing projects that meet their specific management goals.

Alaska Tree Seed Collection

The Alaska Forest Stewardship Program plays a crucial role in supporting reforestation efforts across the state by maintaining a comprehensive seed collection at the Alaska Division of Agriculture Plant Materials Center in Palmer, Alaska. This facility serves as a repository for seeds from native tree species, ensuring the availability of high-quality, region-specific seed for reforestation projects. The seeds stored in Palmer are critical for maintaining healthy, resilient forests across Alaska, supporting efforts to restore areas impacted by wildfires, pests, or other environmental stressors.

Currently, the program has secured temporary funding to expand its seed collection efforts. This funding allows for the collection of additional seeds from various regions of Alaska, ensuring that future reforestation efforts can be supported with seeds that are best suited to the unique conditions of each area. In October of 2025, the program expanded its collection by gathering paper birch seeds from the Fairbanks area. By enhancing the seed collection, the program aims to build a more robust seed bank that will be critical for long-term forest health and recovery across the state.

Private individuals and organizations can request seed from the storage facility, providing access to a wide range of region-specific seed for their reforestation projects. This service supports not only large-scale state-managed initiatives but also smaller, private reforestation efforts. By ensuring the availability of locally adapted seed, the Alaska Forest Stewardship Program plays a vital role in enhancing forest regeneration efforts and promoting sustainable forest management practices across the state.

In 2025, seed from the Palmer collection supported the production of 40,000 seedlings planted in the division's Northern Region, with plans for an additional 120,000 seedlings from the same inventory in 2026. The seed collection also supported a forest stewardship project that distributed 25,000 seedlings to private landowners in 2025, with an additional 25,000 seedlings planned for distribution in 2026.

Utility Coordination and Collaboration

The Stewardship Program established a Utility Working Group to improve communication and collaboration between DFFP programs and regional utilities on vegetation management and wildfire risk reduction. Meetings have included a presentation on vegetation management practices and showcased examples from other fire-prone states of large cross-boundary projects designed to protect critical infrastructure. This working group creates a valuable forum for sharing knowledge, coordinating efforts, and exploring opportunities for partnership on landscape-scale wildfire mitigation initiatives that benefit both utilities and surrounding communities.



Part of DFFP's seed collection at the Plant Materials Center. *John Rusyniak/Board of Forestry*

Forest Stewardship Education: Video Module Development

The Forest Stewardship Program began a project through the Alaska Enhanced Wildfire Mitigation Project, funded by the U.S. Forest Service State and Private Forestry program, to create a series of educational video modules that coordinate with segments of Forest Stewardship Plans and the program's self-study guide. These videos will assist DFFP staff with educating the public about forest management techniques that reduce wildfire risk and increase forest health and economic value, with topics including thinning, wildfire defensible space, and basic forestry principles.

Field Data Collection Modernization

Through a collaboration with the division's GIS team, the stewardship program has modernized its field data collection tools to improve efficiency and data management. Staff now utilize a timber cruising app adapted to record data from private landowner site visits, streamlining the documentation process during Forest Stewardship Plan development. Additionally, a new Firewise form has been developed that records data directly to a DFFP database, supporting both individual property assessments and broader community wildfire mitigation goals. Staff have created comprehensive training materials for using the Firewise form, making it a valuable tool that can be deployed across the division. These innovations and valuable products from the division's GIS team have helped improve the program's technical capabilities.

Project Learning Tree

An initiative of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI), Project Learning Tree (PLT) is a national program that provides natural resource and conservation education materials coupled with professional development training and events that focus on increasing people's understanding of forests and forest concepts. PLT encourages educators to expose students to the natural world and uses trees and forests as a platform for teaching and learning. The Forest Stewardship Program began funding PLT in 2019, which revitalized the program in Alaska by hiring a state PLT coordinator through a partnership with Wasilla Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). Continuing in 2024, funding from the stewardship program and the Inflation Reduction Act allowed PLT to grow and reach educators across Alaska. Additional funding from Wasilla SWCD, a wildland-urban interface (WUI) grant, and SFI support the PLT coordinator position.

Throughout 2025, Alaska PLT expanded its reach through strategic partnerships and innovative programming. Project Learning Tree collaborated with Prince William Sound College to deliver guest lectures and coastal ecology workshops, bringing forest literacy to diverse audiences statewide. A partnership with the Renewable Energy Alaska Project (REAP) resulted in the successful "Exploring Energy in Your Environment" online course, which enrolled 25 educators from rural villages and urban centers, with 18 completing the full course for credit. Additional outreach included a workshop sponsored by Cyberlynx Homeschool and Correspondence Program in Fairbanks, where parent teachers learned to engage students in forestry education using PLT curriculum and hands-on activities.

Alaska PLT strengthened its community presence through expanded fire education initiatives. With support from a WUI Grant through (Alaska Natural Resource & Outdoor Education (ANROE), the program delivered comprehensive fire ecology workshops, including a three-day workshop at Denali National Park where educators explored the 2024 fire site with NPS Fire Ecologist Sarah Stehn, examining burn severity and forest succession exactly one year after the fire. The program built new fire education kits for regional offices and collaborated with organizations like Norton Sound Health Corporation in Nome to connect forestry management with environmental health initiatives.

The project maintained strong connections at state and national levels while positioning itself for future growth. Alaska PLT was featured in National PLT's newsletter and presented at the North American Association for Environmental Education conference, showcasing the REAP partnership as a model for bringing national programs to the local level. The coordinator joined the planning committee for PLT's 50th Anniversary Conference and accepted an invitation from the Alaska Department of Education to contribute to a professional development course on teaching science in Alaska. Through workshops, webinars, and direct educator support, AK PLT distributed learning materials, trained new facilitators with support from the 2024 SFI Education Grant, and participated in National PLT's Indigenous Collaboration working group. With a strong network of partners, natural resource professionals, and educators, Alaska PLT continues to bring forest-related learning to communities across the state.

2025 Forest Stewardship Committee

The Forest Stewardship Program receives guidance from the Forest Stewardship Committee, which is comprised of representatives from a broad range of private landowner and land management interests. Areas of discussion include grant and cost share rates, eligibility criteria, outreach methods, and Forest Stewardship Plan requirements. Additionally, the Committee serves to evaluate the Forest Legacy Program's Assessment of Need, which was reviewed in late 2025 as part of the State Forest Action Plan five-year review.



White spruce seedlings available for the public. *DFFP*

Clare Doig, Forest & Land Management Inc., Anchorage

Georgia Houde, UAF Cooperative Extension, Fairbanks

Gino Graziano, UAF Cooperative Extension, Palmer

Chris Tcimpidis, USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, Palmer

Brian Kleinhenz, Terra Verde Inc.

Jillian Schuyler, Nature Conservancy, Juneau

Clay Hoyt, Staff Forester, Chugachmuit Inc.

Meg Burgett, Wasilla Soil & Water Conservation District

Emerson Krueger, Matanuska-Susitna Borough

Mitch Michaud, Kenai Soil & Water Conservation District

Ian Johnson, Hoonah Indian Association

Community Forestry Program

Urban forests, comprised of city trees and green spaces, provide a multitude of benefits to the people they surround. They improve mental and physical health, clean the air and water, and benefit the economy. However, these benefits can only be realized through proper care and planning. The division's Community Forestry Program provides support and guidance to help communities maximize the potential of their urban forests.

Two program staff, funded through a partnership with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), offer technical, financial, and educational assistance to local governments, state and federal agencies, tree care professionals and nonprofit organizations.

The Alaska Community Forest Council (ACFC) serves as an advisory body to the program, helps set priorities for the program, and provides expertise and advice to the division. The fifteen-member council represents the diversity and broad spectrum of interests and experiences in the state. The members are valuable partners in local community forestry efforts.

Supporting community forestry is an important role for state government because:

- Community forests provide essential services and benefits that we cannot live without
- A healthy community forest is the result of proper planning, management, and community investment
- Healthy community forests can help solve community problems
- Community forests and rural forests are connected and good management of one helps the other

Community Engagement & Outreach

Alaska Nursery and Landscape Forum

Community forestry staff worked with the ACFC to organize and host the 2025 Alaska Nursery and Landscape Forum in Anchorage. The event was an opportunity for landscapers, nursery operators, and green industry workers to gather to discuss the state of the industry, opportunities for growth and strategies to strengthen partnerships and collaboration. Speakers from DFFP community forestry, the Alaska Division of Agriculture, and Bear Mountain Forest Nursery provided technical resources for attendees.



Alaska Nursery & Landscape Forum at the BP Energy Center, Anchorage. *Megan Stoll/ Homer SWCD*

Community Council Presentations

Following completion of the Anchorage Canopy Assessment, the Community Forestry Program worked with the ACFC to organize a series of presentations to Anchorage community councils. The goal of these presentations is to promote the canopy assessment as a tool for evaluating and increasing tree canopy in the Anchorage bowl. The first presentation was delivered to the Airport Heights Community Council in December, and plans are underway to engage all Anchorage community councils by end of 2026.



Palmer One Health Fest

Community forestry provided white spruce seedlings for the One Health Festival in Palmer in May. The event, hosted by Onward and Upward, promotes outdoor learning and emphasizes the connection between human health and the environment.

STEAM Fest

The Community Forestry Program worked with teachers at Chugiak Elementary to coordinate DFFP presence at the school's Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM) festival. DFFP community forestry, forest health, forest stewardship, and fire protection programs were all represented at the event and engaged with nearly 200 individuals.

JBER Arbor Day

Community forestry staff attended Joint-Base Elmendorf-Richardson's (JBER) Arbor Day celebration. This event commemorated JBER's 30th year of being recognized as a National Arbor Day Foundation Tree City USA. Division staff presented JBER leadership with recognition materials and the ceremony was followed by an outreach event for JBER schoolchildren. Community forestry staff made contact with approximately 350 individuals and were joined by staff from DFFP's fire program.



Top: Onward and Upward staff distribute seedlings at the One Health Festival. *Louisa Branchflower/ Onward & Upward*

Left: DFFP staff man outreach booths at Chugiak Elementary's STEAM Fest. *Josh Hightower/DFFP*

Right: JBER Natural Resources staff discuss the importance of Arbor Day. *Josh Hightower/DFFP*

Chokecherry Quarantine

The Community Forestry Program continued to support efforts to increase public awareness of the harm caused by the spread of chokecherries in Alaska. This included providing technical assistance to the Alaska Division of Agriculture to draft and implement a statewide quarantine of *Prunus padus* and *Prunus virginiana*, which was implemented in September. This has been a longstanding goal of the program and represents a significant step forward in efforts to control the spread of these invasive species.

Community forestry worked with the Alaska Broadcasters Association (ABA) to air public service announcements (PSAs) about invasive *Prunus* species on over 50 commercial radio stations throughout the state. PSAs were region specific and voiced by community champions from different geographic areas across the state, including Interior Alaska, the Mat-Su valley, the Municipality of Anchorage, the Kenai Peninsula, and Southeast Alaska. The campaign was made possible through the ABA Community Voice program, which leverages airtime donations from commercial radio stations to maximize the reach of state sponsored messages. The Community Forestry Program invested \$10,000 for the PSAs, which aired 18,233 times from May through August. According to ABA, the value of the radio spots totaled \$393,609.

Professional Conferences

In November, program staff attended the National Arbor Foundation Partners in Community Forestry Conference and annual State and Federal Community Forestry Coordinators meeting in Henderson, Nevada.

Continuing Education

Practical Arboriculture

In conjunction with the Pacific Northwest Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture (PNW-ISA), community forestry hosted a two-day training workshop for ISA certified arborists and tree care workers in Palmer. Instructors Ryan Senechal and Matt Follett discussed a variety of topics including worker safety, workforce development, and rigging techniques. The workshop also included an outdoor demonstration showcasing techniques to reduce bending forces on tree stems during tree climbing and rigging operations.

Alaska Arborist Workshop

The Community Forestry Program also collaborated with PNW-ISA to host the 2025 Alaska Arborist workshop in Anchorage. Over the course of two days, instructor Jim Flott instructed attendees on topics including tree biology, anatomy, and physiology, tree law, and best practices for tree preservation during development projects.



Top: Instructors demonstrate methods to improve safety for tree climbers. **Bottom:** Jim Flott discusses tree anatomy. *Josh Hightower/DFFP*



Chugach State Park staff plant a white spruce seedling near Eagle River.
Spencer Lorrig/ Chugach State Park

Pass-through Grant Program

Seedling Giveaway

The Community Forestry Program provided 6,200 white spruce seedlings to communities, nonprofits, volunteer organizations, and agencies to aid in reforestation following the spruce beetle outbreak in Southcentral Alaska. Seedlings were two-year-old white spruce, grown from locally collected seed and planted on public lands from Fairbanks to Homer.

Anchorage Bowl Tree Canopy Assessment

In 2024, the program contracted with Davey Resource Group to update the 2018 Anchorage Bowl Tree Canopy Assessment.

Regular updates to the canopy assessment align with agency priorities and are one of the recommendations set forth in the Anchorage Climate Action Plan. The update, completed spring 2025, allows land managers to assess changes in the urban tree canopy, locate priority planting areas, and identify areas with significant tree loss.

Invasive Tree Control Grants

The program continued to fund projects that reduce the spread of invasive tree species *Prunus padus* and *Prunus virginiana*. In 2025, new or additional funding was awarded to Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Homer Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Grants provided funding for public outreach, education, inventory, and control of invasive trees in select location throughout the state.

Phytoremediation Grant

The program provided a grant to the University of Alaska Fairbanks Institute for Arctic Biology to complete an ongoing phytoremediation project in the village of Kalag. This project used trees, shrubs, and grasses inoculated with endophytes to sequester and break down diesel contaminants in the village school yard. In addition to successful remediation, this project will yield publicly available best practice resources for phytoremediation in Alaska.

Streambank Restoration Grant

In 2024, the program awarded a grant to Tyonek Tribal Conservation District to restore the original path of Tyonek Creek, which was rerouted in the 1970s due to installation of a now abandoned lumber mill. The original creek path was never restored, leading to issues with erosion, flooding, and impeding salmon passage. The grant was part of a multi-agency effort to restore the creek path, replace the existing 6-foot culvert with a 45-foot culvert, install spruce root wads and plant nearly 800 native trees and shrubs to reduce erosion. In 2025, the project entered its monitoring phase. Additional vegetation was planted to replace ones that didn't survive the first growing season.

Alaska Community Forest Council Capacity Building Grant

The program awarded a grant to Homer SWCD to provide funding for a SWCD employee to serve as the ACFC Administrative Assistant, who will assist with council projects, meeting planning, and council pass-through grant administration.

Arbor Day Foundation Recognition Programs

The Arbor Day Foundation recognized five Alaska communities, three utilities, two universities, and one K-12 school for their efforts to protect and enhance community forests.

Tree City USA: Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Eielson Air Force Base, Fort Wainwright, Fort Greely and the Municipality of Anchorage all re-attained Tree City USA status.

Tree Line USA: Chugach Electric Association, Golden Valley Electric Association, and Matanuska Electric Association retained Tree Line USA status.

Tree Campus Higher Education: The University of Alaska Anchorage and Alaska Pacific University retained Tree Campus Higher Education status.

Tree Campus K-12: Catholic Schools of Fairbanks retained Tree Campus K-12 status.

Community Forestry Organizations

In 2025, volunteers donated over 2,436 hours to community forestry projects in Alaska. Citizen groups around the state organized volunteers, applied for grants, raised funds, supported tree planting and care, and offered educational programs. The Community Forestry Program also engaged with other organizations that are involved in tree plantings, received a grant, or organized events to remove invasive species.

Organizations worked with or assistance provided to:

Alaska Botanical Gardens	Homer Soil & Water Conservation District
Alaska Division of Agriculture	Palmer Soil & Water Conservation District
Alaska Pacific University	Project Learning Tree
Airport Heights Community Council	Seeds of Change
Municipality of Anchorage: Parks & Recreation Department; Planning Department; Project Management & Engineering	Arbor Day Foundation: Tree Campus Higher Education; Tree Campus K-12; Tree City USA; Tree Line USA
Anchorage Park Foundation: Youth Employment in parks	Society of American Foresters
Anchorage School District	Southeast Alaska Watershed Coalition
Anchorage Soil & Water Conservation District	Talkeetna Community Council, Inc.
City & Borough of Juneau	Tyonek Tribal Conservation District
City of Soldotna	University of Alaska Fairbanks Cooperative Extension Service
Fairbanks Soil & Water Conservation District	University of Alaska Fairbanks Institute for Arctic Biology
Government Hill Commons	Wasilla Soil & Water Conservation District

Alaska Community Forest Council

In 2025, the Alaska Community Forest Council (ACFC) held quarterly meetings in March, May, August, and November. The May meeting was held in Soldotna, and included field trips to the Centennial Loop, Kenai Wildlife Refuge, and Crane Peace Park. The August meeting was held in Girdwood and included a guided tour of the flora and fungi of the coastal temperate rainforest and visits to a recent DFFP timber sale.



USFS Ecologist Kate Mohatt leads ACFC members on a forest fungi walk in Girdwood. *Josh Hightower/DFFP*

Below is the ACFC member list as of December 2025:

Seat	Member	Term
Arborist	Megan Rohlfing, Anchorage	2026
Forester	Jordyn Jackson, Homer	2028
Municipal Planner	Ginger Hudson (Vice chair), Juneau	2028
Landscape Architect	Elise Huggins (Chair), Anchorage	2027
Horticulture	Patrick Ryan, Anchorage	2028
Construction/Right-of-Way	Anthony Lindfors, Mat-Su	2027
Small Community Service	Mitch Michaud (Treas.), Soldotna	2026
Community Forestry/Beautification	Oona Martin, Anchorage	2027
Industry/Business	Amy Erfling, Anchorage	2029
AK Cooperative Extension Service	Alex Wenninger (Sec.), Anchorage	2027
Member-at-Large	<i>Vacant</i>	2026
Member-at-Large	Gatgyeda Haayk, Metlakatla	2028
Member-at-Large	Emily Becker, Anchorage	2026
Member-at-Large	Kathleen Heindl, Homer	2028
Member-at-Large	Denise Olin, Nome	2027

Employee Recognition – Forestry

During October’s Forest Resources Annual Meeting, the Division of Forestry & Fire Protection recognized employees whose exceptional efforts helped advance the Forestry Program’s goals and supported colleagues across the organization. This year, staff were honored in five award categories reflecting the breadth of contributions made throughout the program.

Service to State Forestry Award



Team Award

The Division of Forestry & Fire Protection’s Resource Advisor (READ) group for their work during the 2025 fire season: Dub Evans, Drew Anderson, Jordyn Jackson, Bret Foster, Andrew Allaby, and Lydia Hentzen

The busy 2025 fire season quickly overran division staff's capacity for Resource Advisor (READ) support to all the large fires and incident management teams in DFFP’s northern region. In addition to bringing on READs from within and outside of the division and state service, a core group of DFFP foresters from across the state rallied to support these fires. Some were entirely new to being a READ but answered the call going above and beyond to help, while other more experienced READs stepped up to train others. Across DFFP, this group brought expertise in resource management and wildland fire dynamics, demonstrating the teamwork and leadership that strengthen the forestry profession in Alaska. Honorable Mentions outside of DFFP: Jaclyn Cheek (DNR/DMLW), Kate Bollen (USGS), Emily Yurcich (USFWS), Alex Palombo (USFS), Cody Mosely (USFS), James Maxwell (BIA), and Noel Turner (BLM).

Individual Award



Bret Foster - Resource Forester, Fairbanks-Delta Area

In only his second year as Fairbanks-Delta Area Assistant Resource Forester, Bret Foster demonstrated remarkable innovation, dedication, and leadership in advancing Interior Alaska’s timber sale program. He pioneered the area’s first sample tree cruise, salvage cruise, and pre-cruise plot estimates, while developing tools to generate and analyze the resulting data with greater precision and efficiency. Bret designed a GIS-linked reconnaissance protocol that integrates Survey123 and FieldMaps, creating a system that allows multiple users to collect and share field observations seamlessly. He also developed and implemented a timber cruise template that standardizes measurement methods and expanded the creative application of variables in double-point cruising. These innovations have improved accuracy in contract volumes, reduced unnecessary measurements, and transformed the area’s approach to small sales. Through ingenuity and professionalism, Bret exemplifies the values of the Service to State Forestry Award. His contributions have advanced the sustainable management of Alaska’s forests and brought the division’s methods closer to its mission.

Service to the Alaskan Forest Industry Award



Mike Cooney (GNA Forester), Greg Staunton (Southeast Area Forester), Mindy Byron (Southeast Area Admin), and Tom Cheney (Ketchikan Resource Forester)

For the dedication to the successful execution of the mission of the division on the Southeast State Forest over the last ten years. These individuals have demonstrated skills and abilities that have contributed to the work required at a high level, working as a team and individually when the work demanded execution. These staff foresters have provided quality service to the industry in a very challenging management area, advancing the division with their professionalism and significantly contributing to the success of our service to the industry.

Alaska Forestry Support Award

Mary Gaiser – Division Accountant



Despite the typical frantic processes that year-end closeouts bring, the division's accountant Mary Gaiser simultaneously assisted with the tasks of the vacant Grants Administrator position. Throughout the year, she provided financial support and documentation to allow the forestry program to respond to urgent and frequent requests regarding timber sales. Mary stayed focused and was in constant communication with Shared Services staff to ensure critical accounting, grants, and administrative action items were completed. She always kept her supervisor informed of any concerns or competing priorities and helped develop plans to get to the finish line with the best possible outcome. Mary should be commended for all the detailed, tedious work she performed to ensure expenditures and year-end closeouts were done correctly, enabling the division to roll-over savings in the Timber Sale Receipts Fund.

Alaska Forestry Peer Award

Gina Labar – Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA)

As the longest serving active employee in the State's FIA roster (10 years), Gina has just about "seen it all." Her solid work ethic, consistency every season day in and day out, attention to detail, and positive attitude provide critical stability to the program. Amid the myriad of challenges that arise during long field seasons—including the constantly changing remote plot locations, unpredictable weather, and the onerous logistics of crew swaps—Gina has defined what dependable looks like in the FIA program and the division.

Previous page, Top: Dub Evans, Drew Anderson, Jordyn Jackson, Bret Foster, and Andrew Allaby with State Forester and Division Director, Jeremy Douse for their Service to State Forestry Team Award. **Previous Page, Bottom:** Bret Foster with director Jeremy Douse for his Service to State Forestry Individual Award. **Current page, Top:** Mike Cooney, Tom Cheney, and Greg Staunton with their award for Service to the Alaskan Forest Industry. **Current page, Bottom:** Mary Gaiser with director Jeremy Douse for her Alaska Forestry Support Award.

New Employee Excellence Award

Geneva Preston – Forest Planner

Geneva has demonstrated skills in her new position as the Forest Planner that contribute to growth in performance for the entire division. Her communication skills are founded in a willingness to listen, a rare quality in someone entering a new position with expectations of a high level of performance. She matched the steep learning curve of the new position with a desire to learn, giving her a comprehensive understanding of her role that will contribute to the success of our mission goals while she continues her journey with the division.

Time In Service Recognition

The following employees were also recognized in 2025 for their longstanding time in service with the division:

Greg Staunton, Southeast Area Forester – 25 years

Steven Nickel, Mat-Su Area Forester – 20 years

Pat Palkovic, Forest Practices Forester – 20 Years



Members of the forestry program during the annual forest resources meeting in front of the Alaska state seal. *Emily Rooks/Alaska Department of Law*

Fire Protection Program Overview

The Division of Forestry & Fire Protection provides wildland fire protection services on over 150 million acres of land. The goal of the fire and aviation program is to provide safe, cost-effective, and efficient fire protection services and related fire and aviation management activities on State, private, and municipal lands commensurate with the values at risk.

2025 Wildfire Season

Alaska's 2025 fire season began slowly despite low snowpack conditions in Southcentral Alaska, with only 38 fires recorded in the first half of June, the lowest fire activity for that period since records began in 1993. The season picked up substantially mid-June when a rapid shift in weather patterns brought significantly higher temperatures north of the Alaska Range and multiple days of intense lightning activity. Between June 15 and 21, a concentrated weather surge produced approximately 54,800 lightning strikes igniting 173 new fires across Alaska's interior. Red Flag conditions on June 21-22 created significant fire behavior, challenging suppression efforts and threatening communities and critical infrastructure throughout the state.



Crew working on the Oskawalik fire near the village of Crooked Creek in Southwest Alaska. *Steven Rawdling/DFFP*

By the end of the 2025 fire season, the state reported 467 confirmed wildfires that burned a total of 1,006,183 acres, a figure that barely surpasses the 20-year average of one million acres burned annually. Of these fires, 243 occurred within DFFP protection areas, while 224 burned within federal protection areas. Impacts extended beyond acres burned, with approximately 400 residents evacuated from communities including Fairbanks, Healy, and Tok. The Parks Highway experienced temporary closure and traffic delays lasting more than 14 days, disrupting transportation and commerce across the Interior. In total, 45 residences and 43 outbuildings were destroyed by wildfire, while power lines, fiber optic infrastructure, and cell towers sustained damage affecting communications and electrical service across fire-affected regions.

The division's response to the 2025 fire season required extensive mobilization of personnel, equipment, and aviation resources. DFFP's in-state fire management infrastructure includes 355 fire program staff operating from seven area offices across two regions: Northern (Fairbanks, Delta, Tok) and Coastal (Palmer, Glenallen, Soldotna, McGrath). Fire program staff were supported by approximately 360 emergency firefighters (EFF) during fire season. The DFFP utilizes a comprehensive ground suppression force including four Type 4 engines, 26 Type 6 engines, 25 Type 7 engines, Pioneer Peak Interagency Hotshot Crew, Gannett Glacier Type 2 Crew, White Mountain Type 2 Initial Attack Crew, and five to 10 EFF crews. Aviation resources included two airtankers, seven helicopters, two logistics aircraft, two multi-mission aircraft, and eight unmanned aerial systems (UAS) providing reconnaissance and mapping support.



The severity and geographic extent of the 2025 fire season necessitated substantial support from Lower 48 resources. Alaska fire managers filled approximately 3,520 total resource orders with out-of-state personnel and equipment throughout the season. Forty-three crew orders brought 899 crew members to Alaska, including five National Interagency Coordination Center jet loads that mobilized 19 crews via rapid air transport. Overhead personnel needs required 2,620

individual orders, while aviation support included 20 aircraft: 12 single-engine airtankers, three tactical fixed-wing aircraft, four helicopters, and one fixed-wing passenger aircraft. The complexity of multiple large fires burning simultaneously required deployment of two Complex Incident Management Teams and four Type 3 Incident Management Teams generating ten separate team orders.

Despite challenging conditions, DFFP firefighters and cooperators successfully protected the majority of threatened communities and infrastructure. Fire suppression efforts constructed 276 miles of fireline to protect values at risk. Aviation resources provided initial attack and logistical support operations, flying extensive hours and deploying substantial water and retardant volumes on fire throughout Alaska.

As the Alaska fire season concluded in late July, DFFP firefighters, equipment, and aviation resources deployed to support suppression efforts in the Pacific Northwest, where significant fire activity continued through the summer months. This reciprocal resource sharing reflects the interconnected nature of the national wildfire response system, with DFFP providing critical support to other states during their periods of peak fire activity just as lower 48 resources supported Alaska during June and early July.

The 2025 fire season demonstrated both the unpredictability of Alaska's fire environment and the effectiveness of coordinated interagency response. While early-season conditions suggested a moderate fire year, rapid weather changes created volatile fire behavior requiring extensive resource mobilization. The division's investments in preparedness—including comprehensive training programs, modern equipment, and strategic partnerships with federal agencies—enabled effective response despite the season's intensity, ultimately protecting lives and minimizing damage to Alaska's communities and critical infrastructure.



Above: Pioneer Peak Hotshot crew working on the Parks Highway during the Bear Creek Fire. **DFFP Right:** DFFP engine on the Parks Highway during the Nenana Ridge Complex fires. *Kale Casey/DFFP*

2025 Fire Season by the Numbers

2025 Fires by Cause and Protection Area								
Cause	All Fires		DNR-DFFP		BLM-AFS		USFS	
	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres
Human	212	1,980	168	1,818	25	155	19	7
Lightning	251	1,005,240	72	328,381	179	676,859	0	0
Total	463	1,007,220	240	330,199	204	677,014	19	7

2025 Fires & Acres by Jurisdictional Agency		
Landowner	Fires	Acres
STATE	152	460268
DOD	21	8239
NPS	29	74364
BLM	45	224021
USFWS	32	139968
ANCSA	41	94853
BIA	3	2161
Private	113	2279
County	18	23
USFS	9	1
City	2	6

2025 Fire Activity By Agency		
Agency	Fires	Acres
BLM-AFS	204	677,014
DNR-DFFP	240	330,199
USFS	19	7
TOTAL	463	1,007,220

Data source for fire statistics is from the Alaska Interagency Coordination Center:
<https://fire.ak.blm.gov/predsvcs/intel.php>

Four Pillars of the Fire Program

The fire program contains four primary functions of **Preparedness, Prevention, Mitigation, and Suppression.**

These functions work together to achieve the goals of having fire adapted communities, fewer human-caused wildfires, a well-trained and available workforce, and reducing suppression costs while providing increased public safety.



Preparedness

The division's 2025 preparedness efforts focused on building organizational capacity through comprehensive training programs and workforce development initiatives designed to maintain qualified, professional firefighters ready to respond to Alaska's wildfire protection needs. The division hosted annual wildland fire academies at multiple locations across the state, graduating 97 cadets from programs in Soldotna (Administrators Academy), Palmer (AK Engine Academy/Train the Trainer), Chugiak (Basic and Intermediate Academies), and virtual Basic Firefighter Training. Of these graduates, 75 cadets secured employment with the division during the 2025 fire season, demonstrating the direct pipeline from training programs to operational firefighting positions. These academies were made possible through funding allocated by the Alaska Legislature, reflecting the state's commitment to developing capable, professional, local Alaskan firefighters and building long-term capacity in Alaska's wildfire workforce.

Beyond academy programs, the division's statewide training program delivered 104 wildland fire courses in 18 communities across Alaska, completing required annual training for 1,271 firefighters and ensuring qualification and operational readiness across the division's seasonal and permanent workforce. Additionally, 178 new firefighters completed basic firefighter training, expanding the pool of qualified initial attack personnel available for Alaska fire season operations. The division's preparedness investments directly supported operational effectiveness during the challenging 2025 fire season. This training infrastructure maintains the skilled, equipped, and available workforce essential for effective wildfire response across Alaska's 150 million acres of protection responsibility, with preparedness success measured through the division's ability to deploy qualified personnel, maintain interagency coordination, and integrate lower 48 resources seamlessly during periods of heightened fire activity.



DFFP Fire Program staff visit the site of the new Northern Region fire cache in Fairbanks. *DFFP*



DFFP staff at the Colony Days in Palmer sharing fire information and prevention education materials. *DFFP*

Prevention

The division's Prevention Program reduces human-caused wildfires through public education, enforcement, and community engagement, maintaining a visible field presence that encourages voluntary compliance with burn regulations while investigating fire causes and enforcing violations when necessary. In 2025, the division operated with 16 commissioned peace officers, 14 NWCG-qualified fire investigators, and seven fire investigator trainees distributed across Alaska's protection areas. Prevention officers conducted patrols, delivered education, enforced burn permit requirements, and investigated wildfire causes throughout the fire season. Their strong field presence and collaborative approach with the public helped Alaska avoid implementing an emergency burn closure in 2025 despite reaching Preparedness Levels 4 and 5, demonstrating the program's effectiveness in maintaining public cooperation during extreme fire conditions while protecting communities from human-caused fire risk.

The division's prevention and public information staff helped significantly expand public education and community outreach in 2025, with division personnel attending 184 outreach events in 24 different communities across Alaska, reaching over 95,000 members of the public through in-person engagement. These events included school presentations, community meetings, fair booths, Firewise workshops, and public safety demonstrations that build community relationships, increase awareness of wildfire risks and prevention measures, and encourage responsible fire use across Alaska's diverse landscapes.

Prevention is a shared responsibility across all fire program staff, with public information officers, prevention officers, firefighters, dispatchers, and support personnel contributing to public education efforts during their interactions with Alaska residents. When violations occur, prevention officers investigate wildfire causes, issue citations, and enforce burn regulations, though most public contacts result in education and voluntary compliance, reflecting the program's success in building community partnerships and encouraging responsible behavior that protects Alaska communities while respecting residents' need for responsible fire use in areas where burning remains essential for land management and debris disposal.

Mitigation

DFFP works to build resilient landscapes and fire-adapted communities through strategic fuel management, community wildfire protection planning, and collaborative partnerships with local governments and landowners. In 2025, the division managed 16 active fuel breaks and completed eight fuel break projects including the East West Connector, Maud Road Phase #1, Harding Lake Chip Removal, Eagle Trail State Recreation Site, Eagle Trail Subdivision, Moose Nugget Extension, Red Fox, and Leuthold Court. These completed fuel breaks create defensible space around communities, reduce fire intensity near populated areas, and provide tactical advantages for firefighters protecting structures during wildfire incidents.



With over 20 additional fuel breaks planned, the division continues expanding Alaska's network of strategic fuel treatments that reduce wildfire risk in the wildland-urban interface where homes and infrastructure face the greatest threat from approaching fires. In partnership with local governments, the division provides 12 fuel disposal sites across Alaska enabling residents to safely manage woody debris from residential properties, helping prevent accidental fires, mitigating impacts from the spruce bark beetle epidemic, and reducing overall fuel loads in high-hazard areas.

Above: Pioneer Peak Hotshots clearing trees and brush to create burn piles on the East-West connector fuels project in the Anchorage Municipality. *David Kley/DFFP*

Left: Members of the Mat-Su fuels suppression module work on controlled burn piles on the East-West connector fuels project. *David Kley/DFFP*

Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs) provide the foundation for collaborative wildfire risk reduction, bringing together local governments, tribal organizations, state and federal agencies, and community residents to assess wildfire risks and develop prioritized mitigation strategies. In 2025, 13 new CWPPs were in progress with division support, covering 33 communities including Delta, Tok, Hope, Anchorage, Nenana, Cantwell, Sterling, Kenai, Soldotna, and Dillingham. These planning processes engage communities in understanding their wildfire risk, identifying values requiring protection, and developing actionable strategies for fuel reduction, emergency preparedness, and post-fire recovery. The division's role in CWPP development includes technical assistance, risk assessment, mapping support, and coordination with federal land management agencies whose jurisdictions often surround Alaska communities. 2025 accomplishments in mitigation efforts reflect the division's commitment to proactive wildfire risk reduction, recognizing that strategic investments in fuel management and community planning reduce long-term suppression costs while improving safety for both residents and firefighters.

Suppression

In 2025, the division maintained a statewide suppression capability supported by 355 fire program staff operating from seven area offices across the Northern and Coastal regions and approximately 370 emergency firefighters hired during peak activity. Ground resources included Type 4, Type 6, and Type 7 engines; the Pioneer Peak Interagency Hotshot Crew; the Gannett Glacier and White Mountain crews; and five to ten EFF Type 2 crews during peak periods. Aviation resources included airtankers, helicopters, logistics and multi-mission aircraft, and unmanned aerial systems supporting detection, mapping, crew transport, and water-bucket operations.

During periods of elevated activity, suppression operations were strengthened through the Northwest Compact and national resource ordering systems that brought additional crews, overhead personnel, aircraft, and incident management teams to Alaska. As the state's fire season concluded, Alaska personnel and equipment were mobilized to support suppression efforts in the Pacific Northwest, reflecting Alaska's continued role in the national wildfire response system.



Left: Pioneer Peak Hotshots and UAS operator on the Bear Creek Fire. *Kale Casey/DFFP* **Right:** Pioneer Peak Hotshots on the Bear Creek Fire near Healy. *DFFP*

Grant Support

The division regularly participates in grant funding opportunities that help meet the goals of strengthening mitigation, preparedness, and prevention measures for Alaskan communities. In 2025, major grant programs DFFP participated in were the Western Wildland Urban Interface, Volunteer Fire Capacity and Community Wildfire Defense grants.

Western WUI Grants

The National Fire Plan (NFP) is a long-term strategy for reducing the effects of catastrophic wildfire across the nation. The Division of Forestry & Fire Protection administers NFP funding through the USDA Forest Service State Fire Assistance Program to support hazardous fuel reduction, wildfire preparedness, and community assistance projects in Alaska's wildland-urban interface (WUI). These investments help communities reduce wildfire risk through prevention activities, fuel mitigation, and planning efforts that support implementation of the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy.

In 2025, the division was awarded more than \$500,000 in Western WUI grant funding for two Alaska projects. Implementation funding totaling \$214,145 supported wildfire mitigation work in the Keystone neighborhood near Fairbanks, where earlier collaboration between local residents and division staff helped the community achieve Firewise recognition. Initial plans for a perimeter shaded fuel break evolved through coordination with area fire management officers and residents to prioritize improvements to evacuation access and home protection measures, reflecting a community-informed approach to wildfire risk reduction. In addition, \$294,430 in planning funding supported development of a Community Wildfire Protection Plan for the McGrath, Takotna, Nikolai, and Telida (MTNT) communities. Together, these projects strengthen local preparedness, improve community-level wildfire planning capacity, and support continued progress toward fire-adapted communities in Alaska.



Members of DFFP and the Keystone community with the Firewise community certificate. From left to right Nate Zalewski (DFFP), Ray Hander (Keystone), Bill Witte (Keystone), Tony Lacortiglia (Keystone), Tricia Blake (Keystone), Helene Genet (DFFP), Connor Ryan (Keystone). *DFFP*

Community Wildfire Defense Grants

The Community Wildfire Defense Grants (CWDG) are available from the USDA Forest Service through the Alaska Division of Forestry & Fire Protection. The grants help at-risk communities, local governments, tribes, non-profits, state forestry agencies, and Alaska Native corporations plan and reduce the risk of wildfire. Local and tribal governments are encouraged to conduct planning exercises to assist their communities with wildfire preparedness, response, and adaptation. The grants help communities implement the three goals of the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy: restore and maintain landscapes, create fire adapted communities, and improve wildfire response.

The CWDG provides funding for two primary project types:

- Developing and revising Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs).
- Implementing projects described in CWPPs that are less than ten years old.

Grants will fund up to \$250,000 for creating and updating Community Wildfire Protection Plans or to conduct outreach and education, and up to \$10 million for associated infrastructure and resilience projects. Projects must be completed within five years of the award.

During Round 2 of the program, a total of \$3,130,474 in CWDG funding was awarded to Alaska applicants through the DFFP portal. CWDG funding from Round 2 continued to support implementation and planning efforts across Alaska in 2025. Planning activities for the Tok Area and Delta Area CWPPs advanced during the year, with draft plans expected to be released soon. Round 2 implementation funding also supported the Homer Electric Association's Fire Hazard & Fuel Reduction Project, which completed the first phase of work in 2025 and reduced hazardous fuels along approximately 60 miles of right-of-way in Seldovia Village, Jakalof Bay, and Halibut Cove, improving community resilience and protecting critical energy infrastructure.

During the Round 3 funding cycle, 12 Alaska applicants submitted proposals through the DFFP CWDG portal with support from division staff; however, no Alaska projects were selected for funding in that round. DFFP continued statewide outreach to support applicants and strengthen future proposals, including hosting 14 CWDG-focused outreach events across Alaska. The division is working with partners to address data gaps that affect the competitiveness of Alaska's rural and remote communities in federal grant programs and continues to advocate for programmatic adjustments that better reflect Alaska's unique wildfire risk environment and community conditions. Despite the lack of Round 3 awards, CWDG investments remain an important tool for advancing Community Wildfire Protection Plans and supporting fire-adapted communities across Alaska.



Volunteer Fire Capacity Grants

In 2025, the division awarded \$306,292.15 through the Volunteer Fire Capacity (VFC) grant program to 33 rural fire departments across Alaska. Formerly known as the Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) program, VFC provides federal financial, technical, and other assistance from the USDA Forest Service to help State Foresters organize, train, and equip rural fire departments to suppress fires. Rural fire departments serve as the first line of defense in meeting the growing protection needs of wildland-urban interface fires. All eligible rural fire departments in Alaska were invited to apply; 33 applications were received and all departments were awarded funding. Eligible departments serve populations under 10,000, are registered with the Alaska Division of Fire & Life Safety, remain compliant with prior VFC grants, and provide a 10 percent match. The following table contains 2025 grantee details.

Fire Department	DFFP Office	Amount Awarded
Delta Junction VFD	Delta Area	\$8,927.47
Tri-Valley VFD	Fairbanks Area	\$8,678.52
North Pole FD	Fairbanks Area	\$9,967.39
Chena-Goldstream Fire & Rescue	Fairbanks Area	\$8,941.53
Steese Area VFD	Fairbanks Area	\$10,000.00
McKinley VFD	Fairbanks Area	\$5,625.00
Ester VFD	Fairbanks Area	\$10,000.00
Western Emergency Services Area	Kenai Kodiak Area	\$10,000.00
Moose Pass Vol. Fire Co.	Kenai Kodiak Area	\$9,986.75
Lowell Point VFD	Kenai Kodiak Area	\$10,000.00
Cooper Landing VFD	Kenai Kodiak Area	\$9,813.40
Central Emergency Services	Kenai Kodiak Area	\$8,491.54
Bear Creek Fire/EMS Department	Kenai Kodiak Area	\$8,538.00
Seward FD	Kenai Kodiak Area	\$8,624.78
Nikiski FD	Kenai Kodiak Area	\$9,900.00
Bayside Volunteer Fire Department	Kenai Kodiak Area	\$10,000.00
Homer Volunteer Fire Department	Kenai Kodiak Area	\$8,892.00
Talkeetna VFD	Mat Su Area	\$10,000.00
Caswell Lakes FSA #135	Mat Su Area	\$9,759.22
Willow VFD	Mat Su Area	\$9,759.22
Sutton VFD	Mat Su Area	\$9,531.00
Houston FD	Mat Su Area	\$9,900.00
Chickaloon Fire Service, Inc.	Mat Su Area	\$9,999.90
Haines VFD	Southeast Alaska	\$6,001.65
Sitka FD	Southeast Alaska	\$7,142.09
Saint Paul Dept. of Public Safety	Southwest District	\$8,495.24
Native Village of Eagle	State of Alaska Protection	\$9,899.09
Tok VFD	Tok Area	\$9,583.36
Valdez FD	Valdez-Copper River Area	\$9,900.00
Gakona VFD	Valdez-Copper River Area	\$9,940.50
Kennicott/McCarthy VFD	Valdez-Copper River Area	\$9,994.50
GlennRich Fire Rescue	Valdez-Copper River Area	\$10,000.00
Kenny Lake VFD	Valdez-Copper River Area	\$10,000.00
2025 TOTAL		\$306,292.15

Health and Wellness Program

The division's Health & Wellness Program supports the mental and emotional well-being of employees through proactive, employee-centered services focused on peer support, education, and critical incident response. In 2025, the program facilitated 127 peer-to-peer support contacts and coordinated a wide range of firefighter wellness services, including clinical referrals, wellness retreat scholarships, supervisory-level peer support, hospital visits, crisis canine visits, substance abuse treatment support, and family assistance following critical incidents. The program also supported 16 requests from outside agencies and continued providing interagency Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) support across Alaska and to five additional states. Training and outreach efforts remained a priority, with 519 personnel from DFFP and cooperating agencies participating in peer support and CISM-related training and 25 inter- and intra-agency presentations delivered statewide. The Cordico wellness app continued to serve as an important resource, with 262 individuals accessing services and an average of 114 monthly users.



Program highlights in 2025 included full integration with Wildland Fire Academies, where a peer support team member co-facilitated training, and securing funding to provide culturally competent clinical support services to DFFP employees with no out-of-pocket cost. During periods of elevated fire activity, the program also provided statewide CISM Lead coverage with assistance from Northwest Compact resources. However, limited availability of qualified in-state Critical Incident Stress Leaders during peak activity continues to present challenges when multiple incidents occur simultaneously. Priorities for 2026 include continuing in-person briefings for newly assigned Critical Incident Stress Leaders and Incident Management Teams, standardizing statewide CISM Lead coverage during high fire activity, and expanding wellness initiatives that support employees both during the operational season and throughout the off-season.



Top: Members of White Mountain Fire Crew are visited by the National Crisis Response Canines during the 2025 fire season. *Emery Johnson/DFFP* **Bottom:** Wildland Fire Academy cadets during a teambuilding activity. *DFFP*

All Hazard Response

Beyond wildfire response, the Division of Forestry & Fire Protection extended its incident management capabilities to support statewide all-hazard emergency response operations in 2025. Division personnel supported response efforts following Typhoon Halong in Western Alaska and flooding associated with the Mendenhall Glacier in Juneau. The Typhoon Halong response included deployment of a Type 3 Incident Management Team, four crews, and aviation resources for personnel and supply transport, logistics staff supporting operations in Bethel, and coordination support with the State Emergency Operations Center and the Anchorage Emergency Operations Center, in partnership with the Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management.



Logistics personnel loading supplies for Typhoon Halong response in Palmer. *Magen Scheirnböck/DFFP*

Division crews worked alongside state, local, and tribal partners to conduct structure assessments and assist with community recovery efforts in affected Western Alaska communities including Bethel, Napakiak, Napaskiak, and Oscarville. Personnel helped remove water-damaged insulation and building materials to support safe repair and restoration activities, installed heaters in damaged homes, assisted with logistics staging and transport of tools and supplies, and supported public meetings with local leadership to coordinate recovery priorities. Division modules from the Southwest, Fairbanks, and Mat-Su areas participated in the response, reflecting the division's role within Alaska's broader emergency management system and its ability to apply wildland fire operational expertise to support communities during non-fire emergencies.

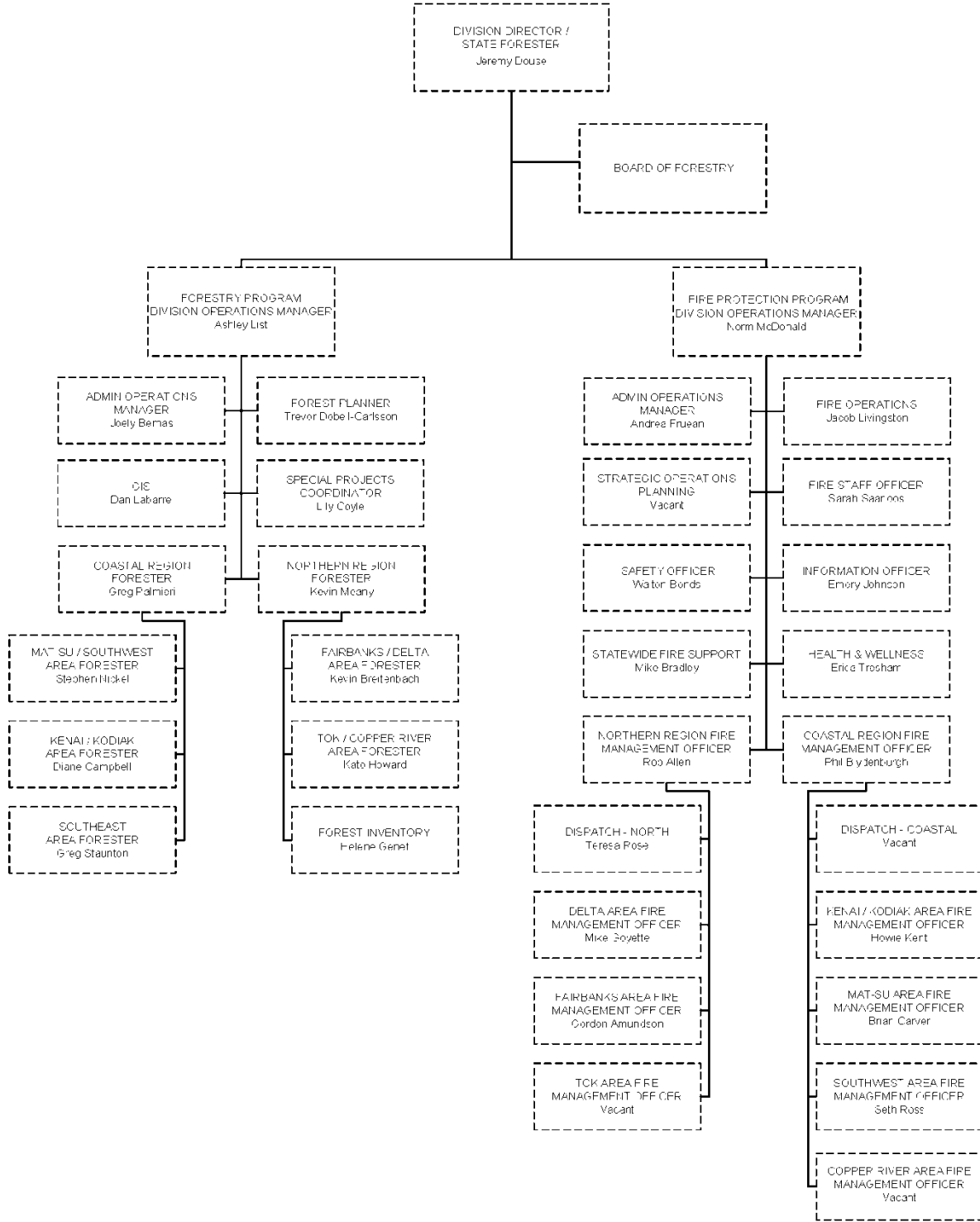


Left: Mat-Su Module removing water-damaged insulation and wood from a home in Napakiak. *Sam Allen/DFFP* **Right:** Division of Forestry & Fire Protection Incident Management Team deployed in Bethel during the Typhoon Halong response. *DFFP*

Appendix

Alaska Division of Forestry & Fire Protection Organizational Chart December 2025

Organizational Chart



2024 Actuals & 2025 Budget

2024 Actuals

NOTE: Dollar figures are in thousands (e.g., \$27.5 is \$27,500.00)

Funding Sources	Forest Mgmt & Development	Fire Preparedness	Fire Activity	Totals
General Funds	\$3,935.7	\$23,217.6	\$85,187.2	\$112,340.5
Federal Funds	\$474.9	\$175.1	\$9,063.6	\$9,713.6
Capital Improvement	-	-	-	\$0.0
Interagency Receipts	\$901.7	\$493.7	-	\$1,395.4
Timber Receipts	\$1,044.3	-	-	\$1,044.3
Other (SDPR)	16.1	-	2,292	\$2,308.3
TOTALS	\$6,372.7	\$23,886.4	\$96,543.0	\$126,802.1

POSITIONS

Permanent Full-Time	38	80	-	118
Permanent Part-Time /Seasonal	10	180	-	190
Non Permanent	13	-	-	13

Forest Management & Development Component

Renewable Resource Development & Sales	Coastal Region	Northern Region	Statewide	Totals
Board of Forestry	-	-	\$23.3	\$23.3
Forest Practices	-	\$168.2	\$289.3	\$457.5
Forest Management	\$214.1	\$227.7	\$565.3	\$1,007.1
Interagency Receipts	-	-	\$901.7	\$901.7
Stat. Desig. Program Receipts (SDPR)	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$16.1	\$16.1
Federal Cooperative Forestry Assistance	-	-	\$628.0	\$628.0
Capital Improvement Receipts (Other)	-	-	-	\$0.0
				\$0.0
<i>Subtotals</i>	\$214.1	\$395.9	\$2,423.7	\$3,033.7
Director's Office	-	-	\$305.3	\$305.3
Component Totals	\$214.1	\$395.9	\$3,400.2	\$6,372.7

Fire Suppression Preparedness Component

	Coastal Region	Northern Region	Statewide	Totals
Preparedness	\$4,875.7	\$3,947.0	\$14,394.9	\$23,217.6
Interagency Receipts	-	-	\$493.7	\$493.7
Federal Cooperative Initial Attack	\$40.3	\$26.5	\$108.3	\$175.1
Capital Improvement Receipts (Other)	-	-	-	\$0.0
				\$0.0
Component Totals	\$4,916.0	\$3,973.5	\$14,996.9	\$23,886.4

2025 Budget

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

FUNDING SOURCES	FOREST MGMT & DEVELOPMENT	FIRE PREPAREDNESS	FIRE SUPPRESSION FUND	TOTALS
General Funds	\$5,148.7	\$25,996.9	\$112,339.0	\$143,484.6
Federal Funds	\$3,785.8	\$1,768.2	\$20,500.0 *	\$26,054.0
Capital Improvement			-	
Receipts (Fed, GF, & SDPR)	\$720.0	\$1,522.1	-	\$2,242.1
Interagency Receipts	\$627.9	\$436.8	613	\$1,677.7
Timber Receipts	\$1,130.5	-	-	\$1,130.5
Other (SDPR)	\$29.7	-	\$2,625.0	\$2,654.7
TOTALS	\$11,442.6	\$29,724.0	\$136,077.0	\$177,243.6
POSITIONS				
Permanent Full-Time	40	73	-	113
Permanent Part-Time /Seasonal	12	186	-	198
Non-Permanent	11	2	-	13

FOREST MANAGEMENT & DEVELOPMENT COMPONENT

RENEWABLE RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT & SALES	COASTAL REGION	NORTHERN REGION	STATEWIDE	TOTALS
Board of Forestry	-	-	\$25.3	\$25.3
Forest Practices	-	-	\$298.3	\$298.3
Forest Management	\$1,324.4	\$905.5	\$1,933.8	\$4,163.6
Forest Inventory and Analysis	-	-	\$1,798.1	\$1,798.1
Tongass Young Growth	-	-	\$1,698.2	\$1,698.2
Interagency Receipts	-	-	\$627.9	\$627.9
Stat. Desig. Program Receipts (SDPR)	-	-	\$29.7	\$29.7
Federal Cooperative Forestry Assistance	-	-	1,850.94	\$1,850.9
Capital Improvement Receipts (Other)	-	-	283.40	\$283.4
<i>Subtotals</i>	\$1,324.4	\$905.5	\$8,545.6	\$10,775.5
Director's Office	-	-	\$667.1	\$667.1
COMPONENT TOTALS	\$1,324.4	\$905.5	\$9,212.7	\$11,442.6

FIRE SUPPRESSION PREPAREDNESS COMPONENT

	COASTAL REGION	NORTHERN REGION	STATEWIDE	TOTALS
Preparedness	\$5,459.3	\$4,419.5	\$16,118.1	\$25,996.9
Interagency Receipts	-	-	\$436.8	\$436.8
Federal Cooperative Forestry Assistance	\$406.7	\$265.2	\$1,096.3	\$1,768.2
Capital Improvement Receipts (Other)	-	-	\$1,522.1	\$1,522.1
COMPONENT TOTALS	\$5,866.0	\$4,684.7	\$19,173.3	\$29,724.0

Division of Forestry & Fire Protection Directory – December 2025

For current contact information see state employee directory: <http://alaska.gov/whitepages/>

State Forester's Office

550 West Seventh Ave., Suite 1450
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3566
269-8463, fax 269-8931

State Forester

Jeremy Douse, 451-2670

Forestry Program Management

550 West Seventh Ave., Suite 1450
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3566

Division Operations Manager

Ashley List, 269-6584

Admin. Operations Manager

Joely Bernas, 269-8477

Forest Planning

Trevor Dobell-Carlsson, 269-8667

Community Forestry Program

Josh Hightower, 269-8466

Forest Health & Protection

(Insects & Disease)

Jason Moan, 269-8460

Forest Stewardship Program

(Landowner Assistance)

Nate Wilson, 269-0086

Special Projects Coordinator

Lily Coyle, 795-9382

Fire Program Management

101 Airport Road
Palmer, Alaska 99645

Division Operations Manager

Norm McDonald, 761-6225

Admin. Operations Manager

Andrea Fruean, 761-6204

Strategic Operations Planner

Vacant

Statewide Fire Support

Mike Bradley, 378-3881

State Fire Warehouse, 451-2667

Fire Operations

Jacob Livingston, 451-2660

AICC Logistics, 356-5680

AICC Coordinator

Katie Kelley, 356-5682

Aviation Program

761-6271, fax: 761-6273

Andrew Jones, Aviation Manager

761-6272

Coastal Aviation Mgmt, 761-6280

Air Attack, 761-6231

Coastal Region

Regional Forester - Coastal

Greg Palmieri, 766-2120

Regional Fire Mgmt Officer - Coastal

Phil Blydenburgh, 761-6302

Coastal Dispatch Center, 761-6240

Mat-Su/Southwest Area Office

101 Airport Road

Palmer, Alaska 99645

761-6300, fax: 761-6319

Stephen Nickel, Area Forester 761-6301

Brian Carver, Area Fire Mgmt.

Officer, 761-6365

Fire line, 761-6311

Burn Permit, 761-6312

Southwest Area Office (Seasonal)

Box 130

McGrath, Alaska 99627

524-3010, fax 524-3420

Seth Ross, Area Fire Mgmt.

Officer, 524-0047

Fire line, 524-3366

Kenai-Kodiak Area Office

42499 Sterling Highway

Soldotna, Alaska 99669

(Mi. 92.5 Sterling Hwy)

260-4200, fax: 260-4205

Diane Campbell, Area Forester

260-4210

Howie Kent, Area Fire Mgmt.

Officer 260-4220

Fire line, 260-4260

Burn Permit, 260-4269

Southeast Area Office

2417 Tongass Avenue, Suite 213

Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

225-3070, fax: 247-3070

Greg Staunton, Area Forester

225-3070

Fire line, 524-3366

Northern Region

Regional Forester - Northern

Kevin Meany, 451-2602

Regional Fire Mgmt Officer - Northern

Rob Allen, 451-2600

Northern Dispatch Center, 451-2680

Fairbanks Area Office

3700 Airport Way

Fairbanks, Alaska 99709-4699

451-2600, fax 458-6895

Kevin Breitenbach, Area Forester

451-2614

Gordon Amundson, Fire Mgmt.

Officer, 451-2634

Fire line, 451-2626

Fire Operations, fax: 451-2633

Delta Area Office

P.O. Box 1149

Delta Junction, Alaska 99737

(Mi. 267.5 Richardson Hwy)

895-4225, fax: 895-2125

Kevin Breitenbach, Area Forester

451-2614

Mike Goyette, Fire Mgmt. Officer

895-4225

Fire line, 895-4227

Tok Area Office

Box 10 Tok, Alaska 99780

(Mile 123.9 Tok Cutoff)

883-1400, fax: 883-5135

Timothy "Kato" Howard, Area

Forester, 883-1403

Vacant, Fire Mgmt. Officer, 883-

1404

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

Timothy "Kato" Howard, Area

Forester, 883-1403

Vacant, Fire Mgmt. Officer 822-

5534