

# QUICK DATA

# Forest Resources



## Alaska Division of Forestry & Fire Protection

2024 SUMMARY



In the Mat-Su this year, the area utilized DOF's in-house staff to improve 10.5 miles of forestry road in the Willow and Houston areas and scarified 4 acres of a partially harvested timber sale. Additional road work is planned for 2025. The area produced, public noticed and adopted the five-year-schedule of timber sales and sold the Alyeska timber sale, associated with Resort's expansion project.

In Southeast Alaska, activity continued at the 15 MMBF Bayview timber sale purchased by the Viking Lumber Company in Klawock from the State in 2021. Most of the sale was complete by the end of 2024. Alcan Timber Inc. of Ketchikan continued to harvest on the State portion of the 16 MMBF joint federal and state Vallenar Good Neighbor Authority timber sale. The 12.3 MMBF Edna Bay Parlay Two timber sale on Southeast State Forest land at Kosciusko Island was completed by the end of fiscal year 2024. Area staff conducted additional planning and design efforts for new timber sales near the communities of Edna Bay and Petersburg. The DOF offered and awarded timber sales in Whale Pass, El Capitan and Naukati on Prince of Wales Island and on Kosciusko Island.

In Northern Region, commercial timber is harvested throughout the Fairbanks and Delta areas, with 82 active timber contracts with 47 operators on State land as of December 10, 2024. The effects of the spruce bark beetle epidemic in the Mat-Su area have led some mill operators south of the Alaska Range to look north for sawlogs, and this demand is providing an interesting new market for the local logging industry. The State has seen increased interest in timber sales from Anderson to the Nenana area.

In Coastal Region I, two small-negotiated sales (7 acres each) were completed on the eastern area of the Kenai Peninsula. All timber was utilized in state and distributed to multiple processors. Four DPOs were received for clear cut timber harvest operations on Afognak Island on Afognak Native Corporation lands. An estimated 1,654 acres were scheduled for harvest and 14.8 miles of new spur roads to be constructed. Timber operators on Afognak Island anticipate a harvest of 32 million board feet in 2024 which is on track with their annual average.

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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.

### Ten-Year Record of Timber Volume Sold - MMBF

|      | Coastal<br>Southeast | Coastal<br>Southcentral | Northern<br>Region | State<br>Total | Statewide<br>Sales |
|------|----------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| FY15 | 6,171                | 438                     | 14,305             | 20,914         | 39                 |
| FY16 | 401                  | 50                      | 7,864              | 8,315          | 34                 |
| FY17 | 8,196                | 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 | 39,071               | 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                 |

### Timber Sale Revenue (in thousands dollars)

|      |          |
|------|----------|
| FY15 | 1,917    |
| FY16 | 212.8    |
| FY17 | 688.5    |
| FY18 | 477.4    |
| FY19 | 464.3    |
| FY20 | 91.7     |
| FY21 | 265.4    |
| FY22 | 1,420    |
| FY23 | 1,182.70 |
| FY24 | 1,922.64 |



### Harvest Acreage in New Notifications

|                | 2021  | 2022  | 2023  | 2024  |
|----------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Southern SE    | 1,860 | 1,095 | 637   | 569   |
| Northern SE    | 683   | 13    | 0     | 0     |
| Mat-Su/SW      | 148   | 131   | 689   | 259   |
| Kenai-Kodiak   | 1,479 | 1,339 | 3,166 | 1,649 |
| Coastal Total  | 4,170 | 2,578 | 4,492 | 2,477 |
| Fairbanks      | 38    | 15    | 30    | 29    |
| Delta          | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0     |
| Tok            | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0     |
| Copper River   | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0     |
| Northern Total | 38    | 15    | 30    | 29    |
| TOTAL          | 4,208 | 2,593 | 4,522 | 2,506 |

### Firewood Permits Issued & Cords Sold

|      |     |       |
|------|-----|-------|
| FY20 | 574 | 2,296 |
| FY21 | 653 | 2,279 |
| FY22 | 564 | 2,872 |
| FY23 | 403 | 1,848 |
| FY24 | 382 | 1,768 |

### New Notifications Detailed Plans of Operation

|                | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 |
|----------------|------|------|------|------|
| Southern SE    | 13   | 12   | 6    | 10   |
| Northern SE    | 5    | 1    | 0    | 0    |
| Mat-Su/SW      | 2    | 1    | 3    | 2    |
| Kenai-Kodiak   | 3    | 6    | 10   | 4    |
| Coastal Total  | 23   | 20   | 19   | 16   |
| Fairbanks      | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    |
| Delta          | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    |
| Tok            | 1    | 0    | 0    | 0    |
| Copper River   | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    |
| Northern Total | 2    | 1    | 1    | 1    |
| TOTAL          | 24   | 21   | 20   | 17   |



# WILDLAND FIRE & HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION

Alaska’s 2024 fire season witnessed 374 confirmed fires, burning a total of 667,060 acres. The Division’s mitigation efforts prioritized resilient landscapes and the development of fire-adapted communities, strategically removing hazardous fuels and collaborating with local governments to safeguard Alaska from wildfires.

Key projects, such as the Anderson Fuel Break, Tok Wildland Urban Interface, Harding Lake Campground, Glennallen (mechanical), and the Caswell project, reduced over 400 acres of fuel. As snow melted in April and May, the Division of Forestry & Fire Protection (DOF) responded to numerous human-caused fires, mostly near Kenai, Mat-Su, and Fairbanks. The Popovitch Coal Seam Fire, detected on May 17, burned about 4,000 acres, requiring suppression efforts. In mid-June, lightning storms ignited dozens of fires in Southwest Alaska, prompting the deployment of air and ground resources to McGrath.

In July, lightning storms in the central interior led to smoke issues and unhealthy air quality in Fairbanks. The McDonald Fire on military lands south of Fairbanks significantly impacted air quality. DOF assisted with protection efforts for state values, including cabins and campgrounds. Lightning-caused fires north of Fairbanks were managed under the statewide agreement by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Alaska Fire Service. The Grapefruit Complex threatened the community of Joy and the Elliott Highway, while the Tustumena Lake Fire and Montana Creek Fire received robust initial attacks to protect values at risk.

The Division’s aviation fleet provided initial attack and logistical support operations, flying 1,556 hours and deploying over 221,000 gallons of retardant on fires within the state and in the contiguous United States. The Division also received support from Canada and the Lower 48 through the Northwest Compact agreement.

As the Alaskan season ended in late July, Alaskan firefighters and equipment were sent to support the Pacific Northwest. The Alaska Complex Incident Management Team managed four deployments in Oregon, with additional resources like the Pioneer Peak Hotshots, Gannett Glacier Crew, White Mountain Crew and DOF engine strike team providing critical fire suppression support. The costs associated with mobilizing and supporting these resources are covered by the receiving units, allowing the State to recover revenue through cost recovery. Firefighting resources from both Canada and the Lower 48 remain available to Alaska when needed.

| 2024 Fires by Cause and Protection Area |           |         |           |         |       |         |       |       |
|-----------------------------------------|-----------|---------|-----------|---------|-------|---------|-------|-------|
| Cause                                   | All Fires |         | State DOF |         | AFS   |         | USFS  |       |
|                                         | Fires     | Acres   | Fires     | Acres   | Fires | Acres   | Fires | Acres |
| Human                                   | 193       | 3,525   | 147       | 780     | 33    | 2,743   | 12    | 2     |
| Lightning                               | 179       | 663,534 | 77        | 112,549 | 102   | 550,985 | 0     | 0     |
| Total                                   | 372       | 667,059 | 224       | 113,329 | 135   | 553,728 | 12    | 2     |

| 2024 Fire Activity By Agency |       |         |
|------------------------------|-------|---------|
| Agency                       | Fires | Acres   |
| BLM-AFS                      | 137   | 553,728 |
| STATE-DOF                    | 224   | 113,330 |
| USFS                         | 13    | 2       |
| TOTAL                        | 374   | 667,060 |

| 2024 Fires & Acres by Jurisdictional Agency |       |         |
|---------------------------------------------|-------|---------|
| Landowner                                   | Fires | Acres   |
| STATE                                       | 112   | 219,648 |
| DOD                                         | 34    | 146,098 |
| NPS                                         | 19    | 97,478  |
| BLM                                         | 32    | 77,970  |
| USFWS                                       | 33    | 65,200  |
| ANCSA                                       | 40    | 59,838  |
| BIA                                         | 4     | 707     |
| Private                                     | 84    | 118     |
| County                                      | 5     | 2       |
| USFS                                        | 6     | 1       |
| City                                        | 5     | <1      |



## COMMUNITY & LANDOWNER ASSISTANCE

The Forest Stewardship, Forest Health, and Community Forestry programs provide technical and financial assistance to diverse landowners and managers. The USDA Forest Service funds these programs, contributing over \$1 million annually to the state economy. They assist Alaska Native Corporations, other private landowners, businesses, and local governments, which contribute matching funds.

### Forest Stewardship Program

- Four Alaska Native corporations, awarded sub-grants for developing Forest Stewardship Plans, completed plans covering more than 1,336,078 acres.
- Two additional Alaska Native corporations began the planning process for developing Forest Stewardship plans that will encompass over 920,000 acres.
- Seven Forest Stewardship Plans covering more than 1,336,255 acres were prepared for private forest landowners, including Alaska Native corporations and individual landowners.
- At least 15 homeowners completed wildfire fuel reduction projects using federally funded cost-share grants, and 15 defensible space assessments were completed in 2024.
- Distributed 19,100 white spruce seedlings to private landowners, strengthening reforestation efforts and securing the long-term health of Alaska’s forests for future generations.

### Forest Health Program

- DOF continued its Western Bark Beetle Initiative cost-share program to assist non-federal landowners with bark beetle prevention, suppression, and restoration efforts.
- Forest Health staff continued to assist in evaluating improved methodology for protecting trees from spruce beetle. In 2024, this work consisted of closeout assessments for two 2023 projects and one new project - all are being conducted in cooperation with the USFS Pacific Southwest Research Station and FHP.
- In 2024, DOF and FHP staff collectively mapped about 446,400 acres of forest damage on the just over 20 million acres surveyed. The top three damage agents documented during the surveys in 2024 were aspen leafminer (182,900 acres), willow leafblotch miner (68,500 acres) and flooding (51,000 ac).

### Community Forestry Program

- For the fifth year in a row CFP collaborated with the Arbor Day Foundation and the MOA Parks and Recreation Department to conduct a tree giveaway as part of the 32nd annual Alaska Run for Women.
- CFP continued to support efforts to increase public awareness of the harm caused by the spread of invasive trees in Alaska.
- CFP staff presented a webinar to potential grant applicants that discussed available and upcoming Community Forestry grant opportunities.
- CFP awarded Tyonek Tribal Conservation District a grant as part of a large-scale, multi-agency effort to restore a traditional fish passage that had been impacted by historic timber harvest operations.