

FORESTRY

2018 SUMMARY

State of Alaska

Department of
Natural Resources

Division of Forestry

FOREST RESOURCES

The forest resources program budget was reduced by approximately 42% three years ago. These cuts, along with reorganization, resignations, and difficulty recruiting and retaining qualified staff have reduced capacity to offer state timber sales in Southeast Alaska. The division, however, continues to offer sales, some of which include federal timber.

The Division of Forestry (DOF) offered its second Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) timber sale by combining a total of 16 MMBF of timber from state and national forests on Gravina Island. The sale received no bids and was reappraised to better reflect current market conditions. DOF and the Chugach National Forest agreed to another GNA project for forest health improvement through pre-commercial thinning.

The USFS Forest Inventory and Analysis Program completed its third year in Interior Alaska in partnership with DOF, the University of Alaska Fairbanks, and the Tanana Chiefs Conference and should continue its inventory annually. DOF and the USFS completed the third year of a forest inventory project to support a transition to young growth timber harvesting in the Tongass National Forest.



2018 FOREST RESOURCES & PRACTICES ACT ACTIVITIES ON PRIVATE, MUNICIPAL AND TRUST LAND

NEW NOTIFICATIONS Detailed Plans of Operation

	2015	2016	2017	2018
SSE	16	19	19	14
NSE	0	0	1	10
Mat-Su/SW	1	0	0	1
Kenai-Kodiak	6	7	2	3
COASTAL	23	26	22	28
Fairbanks	5	2	2	1
Delta	0	0	0	0
Tok	0	0	0	0
Copper R.	0	0	0	0
NORTHERN	5	2	2	1
TOTAL	28	28	24	29

HARVEST ACREAGE IN NEW NOTIFICATIONS

	2015	2016	2017	2018
SSE	1820	3,341	3,758	2,479
NSE	0	0	0	863
Mat-Su/SW	160	0	0	1,646
Kenai-Kodiak	2,831	2,387	691	1,460
COASTAL	4,811	5,728	4,449	6,448
Fairbanks	299	127	79	29
Delta	0	0	0	0
Tok	0	0	0	0
Copper R.	0	0	0	0
NORTHERN	299	127	79	29
TOTAL	5,110	5,855	4,528	6,477

TEN-YEAR RECORD OF TIMBER VOLUME SOLD (MBF) (MBF = 1,000 BOARD FEET)

	Coastal: Southeast	Coastal: Southcentral	Northern Region	State Total	# Sales Sold Statewide
FY 09	5,597	1,451	11,036	18,084	91
FY 10	4,626	2,460	5,445	12,531	69
FY 11	12,865	3,913	7,281	24,053	71
FY 12	8,556	1,260	7,739	17,555	50
FY 13	4,976	1,918	2,662	9,556	50
FY 14	8,512	379	19,621	28,512	58
FY 15	6,171	438	14,305	20,914	39
FY 16	401	50	7,864	8,315	34
FY 17	8,196	378	2,749	11,323	38
FY 18	5,269	206	2,477	7,952	22

TIMBER PROGRAM REVENUE (IN THOUSAND DOLLARS)

FY 09	617.0	FY 14	753.1
FY 10	521.9	FY 15	717.2
FY 11	371.9	FY 16	870.2
FY 12	601.7	FY 17	749.1
FY 13	860.9	FY 18	574.6

Note: Timber program revenue is primarily from timber sales; a very small percentage comes from other sources including sale of log brands and seedlings, reclamation bonds, and document fees.

NUMBER OF PERSONAL USE PERMITS

	State Total
FY 15	1103
FY 16	911
FY 17	1070
FY 18	674

The mission of the Division of Forestry is to proudly serve Alaskans through forest management and wildland fire protection.

WILDLAND FIRE

The Alaska Division of Forestry provides protection from wildland fire and other destructive agents, commensurate with the values at risk, on private, state, and municipal land (AS 41.15.010) in a safe, efficient and cost-effective manner. The division is responsible for wildland fire management on 150 million acres of land in the more densely populated areas of the state with a staff of 30 full-time employees and 170 seasonal personnel. The division works cooperatively with local fire departments, the BLM Alaska Fire Service, U.S. Forest Service, and hundreds of seasonal workers to minimize the impact of wildland fire on the public, property, and natural resource values of Alaska.



For the third year in a row, Alaska experienced a quiet wildfire season. A total of 362 fires burned an estimated 411,176 acres statewide, well below the 10-year annual average of 500 fires and 1.1 million acres burned. As is usually the case, there were more fires caused by humans than by lightning, but the acreage burned by lightning-started fires far surpassed the acres burned by human starts. For the season, 224 human-caused fires burned 28,984 acres and 138 lightning-caused fires burned 382,193 acres. No structures were lost and there were no major injuries to firefighters or civilians during the 2018 season.

ACRES BURNED BY LAND OWNERSHIP		
Landowner	Fires	Acres
Alaska Native Claims Act Lands	45	106,250.2
Borough	12	118.5
Bureau of Indian Affairs	0	0.2
Bureau of Land Management	28	111,389.7
City	3	20.1
Department of Defense	20	48.0
National Park Service	21	21,393.3
Other Federal Lands	1	0.1
Private	93	388.9
State	102	138,571.5
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service	24	32,973.6
U.S. Forest Service	13	22.1
TOTALS*:	362	411,176.2

* Number of fires reflects land ownership at origin. These are acre totals burned by landowner. Data compiled from submitted fire perimeters.

FIRE ACTIVITY BY PROTECTING AGENCY		
Agency	Fires	Acres
AFS	121	365,112.1
State	203	46,035.7
USFS	38	28.14

10 LARGEST FIRE SEASONS ON RECORD		
Year	Fires	Acres
2004	701	6,590,140
2015	768	5,111,452
1957	391	5,049,661
1939	200	5,000,000
2005	624	4,649,597
1940	130	4,500,000
1969	685	4,231,820
1941	138	3,654,774
1990	750	3,189,079
2009	516	2,934,608

DIVISION OF FORESTRY

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COMMUNITY & LANDOWNER ASSISTANCE

The Forest Stewardship, Forest Health, and Community Forestry programs provide technical and financial assistance to diverse landowners and managers through cost-effective, non-regulatory partnerships. The programs are funded 100% by federal and other grants, mainly from the U.S. Forest Service.

Over one million dollars in federal funds are infused annually into the state economy through these programs. In addition, local governments and organizations contribute matching funds. The economic impact of the technical and financial assistance to Alaska Native corporations, other private forest landowners and businesses, boroughs, and local governments is substantial.

2018 HIGHLIGHTS

Forest Stewardship Program

- An Alaska Native corporation completed work on a forest stewardship plan for over 20,000 acres and another received a grant to begin a plan on 29,000 acres. Five other Native corporations are working on plans.
- Thirty individual landowners completed forest stewardship plans. Primary goals for landowners were creating wildfire defensible space, producing firewood, and mitigating spruce beetle damage.
- Forty homeowners completed wildfire fuel reduction projects and Forestry staff provided Firewise education for 300 homeowners.

Forest Health Program

- DOF, in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service, mapped 1.14 million acres of damage on the 28 million acres surveyed. Areas of damage increased by 35% from 2017. Spruce beetle activity was observed on 593,000 acres, an increase of 46% since 2017.
- Observed 506,600 acres of damage attributed to defoliating insects. Most damage was caused by aspen and birch leaf miners.
- Staff provided forest health information and/or assistance to 600 individuals, 50% more than in 2017 due mainly to the spruce beetle outbreak in SC Alaska.
- Began two research projects looking at ways to protect trees from spruce beetles.

Community Forestry Program

- Provided technical assistance and information to local governments, businesses, agencies, and homeowners.
- Continued restoration along seven miles of Campbell Creek in Anchorage. State, federal, and local partners are restoring riparian forest functions, improving habitat and water quality, creating low impact pedestrian routes, and engaging the community in education and stewardship.
- In partnership with local agencies and organizations, continued restoration of the Chena watershed. The project demonstrates green infrastructure designs as cost effective ways to decrease runoff and improve water quality for a healthy and sustainable fishery.

WILDFIRES BY CAUSE (DATA CURRENT AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2018)

	All Fires		State Protection		AFS Protection		USFS Protection	
	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres
Campfire	48	36.4	21	11.1	4	2.3	23	23.0
Children	6	0.8	5	0.7	-	-	1	0.1
Debris Burning	49	63.4	40	59.2	2	0.2	7	4.0
Equipment	13	7.9	13	7.9	-	-	-	-
Incendiary	8	6.1	3	0.3	5	5.8	-	-
Lightning	138	382,192.6	46	17,744.5	92	364,448.1	-	-
Miscellaneous	64	951.6	50	881.0	10	69.9	4	0.7
Railroad	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Smoking	3	0.3	2	0.2	-	-	1	0.1
Under Investigation	1	0.1	-	-	-	-	1	0.1
Undetermined	32	27,917.0	23	27,331.1	8	585.8	1	0.1
TOTALS	362	411,176.2	203	46,036.0	121	365,112.1	38	28.1