

# FORESTRY

## FOREST RESOURCES

Since July 2015, reductions in state general funds to the forest resources program resulted in the loss of twelve full-time positions, ten student interns, and one position that shared funding with the forest fire program. Over the past three years, the forest resources program budget has been reduced by approximately 42%. These cuts, along with reorganization, resignations, difficulty filling vacancies, and appeals of proposed timber sales, have reduced capacity to offer state timber sales in Southeast Alaska.

Our federally-funded cooperative Forest Health, Forest Stewardship, and Community Forestry programs remain strong. The US Forest Service (USFS) Forest Inventory and Analysis Program completed its first year in Interior Alaska in partnership with the DOE, UAE, and Tanana Chiefs Conference and should continue annually.

The DOF and the USFS completed the first year of a three-year forest inventory to support a transition to young growth timber harvesting in the Tongass National Forest. The DOF and the USFS also signed an agreement allowing the DOF to prepare and administer commercial timber sales on national forest system lands in Alaska. These federally-funded agreements provide jobs and opportunities for Alaskans to develop new skills which support communities and the local timber industry.



### 2016 SUMMARY

State of Alaska

Department of  
Natural Resources

Division of Forestry

#### 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 07	24,437	30,110	6,420	60,967	65
FY 08	4,059	4,316	7,163	15,538	67
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

#### TIMBER PROGRAM REVENUE (IN THOUSAND DOLLARS)

FY 07	661.9	FY 12	601.7
FY 08	1260.5	FY 13	860.9
FY 09	617.0	FY 14	753.1
FY 10	521.9	FY 15	717.2
FY 11	371.9	FY 16	870.2

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 13	1366
FY 14	1440
FY 15	1103
FY 16	911

#### 2016 FOREST RESOURCES & PRACTICES ACT ACTIVITIES ON PRIVATE, MUNICIPAL AND TRUST LAND

##### NEW NOTIFICATIONS (DPOS)

	2013	2014	2015	2016
SSE	28	14	16	19
NSE	5	0	0	0
Mat-Su/SW	2	2	1	0
Kenai-Kodiak	7	9	6	7
COASTAL	42	25	23	26
Fairbanks	12	4	5	2
Delta	0	0	0	0
Tok	0	0	0	0
Copper R.	0	0	0	0
NORTHERN	12	4	5	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>28</b>

##### HARVEST ACREAGE IN NEW NOTIFICATIONS

	2013	2014	2015	2016
SSE	8,350	1,724	1820	3,341
NSE	707	0	0	0
Mat-Su/SW	131	554	160	0
Kenai-Kodiak	836	3,826	2,831	2,387
COASTAL	10,024	6,104	4,811	5,728
Fairbanks	174	238	299	128
Delta	0	0	0	0
Tok	0	0	0	0
Copper R.	0	0	0	0
NORTHERN	174	238	299	128
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10,198</b>	<b>6,342</b>	<b>5,110</b>	<b>5,856</b>

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

# WILDLAND FIRE

The Division of Forestry provides protection from wildland fire and other destructive agents relative to the values at risk on private, state, or municipal land (AS Sec.41.15.010) in a safe, efficient and cost-effective manner. The Division is responsible for managing wildland fires on 150 million acres of land located in the more densely populated areas of the state with a staff of 30 full-time and 170 seasonal employees. 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 the natural resource values of Alaska.



Despite an early start and late finish, Alaska's 2016 wildland fire season was well below normal as a result of heavy rain in June and July in Interior Alaska. A total of 572 wildfires burned 500,949 acres in 2016, making it the 36th largest fire season on record since 1939. In a normal year, Alaska records about 500 fires that burn 1.2 million acres. Despite the below-average season, Alaska still ranked second behind California in total acres burned in a state. No structures were lost and there were no major injuries to firefighters or civilians during the 2016 season.

The season got off to an early start due to below-normal snowfall and a warm, dry spring. The first wildfire was reported on Feb. 22 near Delta Junction. Alaska Fire Service smokejumpers were deployed to their earliest fire ever in Alaska – the Leaf Lake Fire near Palmer on April 17. It also turned out to be one of the latest fire seasons on record due to dry, snow-free conditions in Southcentral Alaska in the fall. The Moose Creek Fire north of Palmer was reported on Oct. 8 and burned 303 acres near the community of Sutton.

## ACRES BURNED BY LAND OWNERSHIP

Landowner	Fires	Acres
Bureau of Indian Affairs	4	769.2
Bureau of Land Management	36	71,957.5
Borough	26	4,031.0
Department of Defense	39	339.1
Native Claims Act Lands	76	27,861.8
National Park Service	13	22,647.1
Private	156	70.9
State	161	249,346.5
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	53	123,992.4
U.S. Forest Service	8	3.8
<b>* TOTALS:</b>	<b>572</b>	<b>500,949.3</b>

\* 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	182	395,748.1
State	375	104,627.2
USFS	4	4.5

## 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

## WILDFIRES BY CAUSE (DATA CURRENT AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2015)

All Fires	State Protection		AFS Protection		USFS Protection			
	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres		
Campfire	51	862.0	45	858.7	0	0	6	3.3
Children	6	1.2	6	1.2	0	0	0	0
Debris Burning	86	90.0	83	16.4	3	73.6	0	0
Equipment	24	455.4	21	5.5	3	449.9	0	0
Incendiary	30	294.2	2	2.1	28	292.1	0	0
Lightning	229	490,887.5	100	99,823.0	129	391,064.5	0	0
Miscellaneous	86	3,521.3	85	3,509.3	1	12.0	0	0
Railroad	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Smoking	2	0.2	2	0.2	0	0	0	0
Under Investigation	14	911.5	5	910.3	0	0	9	1.2
Undetermined	44	3,926.0	26	70.0	18	3,856.0	0	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>572</b>	<b>500,949.3</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>105,196.7</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>395,748.1</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>4.5</b>

## COMMUNITY & LANDOWNER ASSISTANCE

The Community Forestry Program is funded by a federal grant to establish and enhance forest management in Alaska communities. 2016 accomplishments:

- Provided educational, technical and/or financial assistance to local governments, agencies organizations, businesses and individuals in 17 communities: Anchorage, Fairbanks, Girdwood, Homer, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Juneau, Kenai, Ketchikan, Metlakatla, Palmer, Salcha, Seward, Sitka, Soldotna, Sterling, Tok, and Wasilla.
- Awarded grants to three communities and four organizations.
- Continued progress on landscape scale restoration projects to improve forest health, water quality, and fish habitat in the watersheds of the Chena River in Fairbanks and Campbell Creek in Anchorage. Projects are funded by US Forest Service grants.
- Provided educational presentations and classes to 144 individuals for a total of 450 seat hours.
- Volunteers donated 1,631 hours towards community forestry projects.

The federally-funded Forest Stewardship Program offers technical assistance to private forest landowners to develop and follow Forest Stewardship Plans written by a natural resources professional. 2016 accomplishments:

- Assisted 12 private landowners and six Alaska Native Corporations to prepare stewardship plans to sustainably manage their lands for a variety of objectives.
- Awarded grants to 50 landowners to reduce hazardous fuels around homes, reducing the risk of loss to wildfire.
- Partnered with the UAF Cooperative Extension to provide natural resources educational materials to teachers throughout the state.



## DIVISION OF FORESTRY

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