

2025 Annual Report to the Board of Forestry



Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Habitat Section
February 2026

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2025 OVERVIEW

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) Habitat Section submits our 2025 annual report to the Board of Forestry. This report summarizes our January 1 – December 31, 2025, forestry-related activities and informs the Board of Forestry of Alaska Forest Resources and Practices Act (FRPA) effectiveness protecting the resources and habitats for which ADF&G has responsibility.

Alaska Statutes require ADF&G to manage, protect, maintain, improve, and extend the fish, game, and aquatic plant resources of the state in the interest of the economy and general well-being of the State (AS 16.05.020), to ensure the proper protection of anadromous fish habitat (AS 16.05.871), and to provide fish passage (AS 16.05.841).

On public lands, FRPA^a requires the maintenance of important fish and wildlife habitats. The state forester recognizes the expertise of ADF&G regarding fish and wildlife habitat on all lands with fish habitat as the primary value in riparian areas.^b ADF&G helps identify and protect important wildlife habitats on private lands and provides technical expertise for voluntary management techniques that minimize adverse effects on wildlife habitat.^c

PRIVATE AND OTHER PUBLIC (NON-DNR) LANDS

Table 1 contains FRPA activity on private and other public lands.

Southeast Region

Craig staff reviewed and commented on six detailed plans of operation (DPOs) for commercial timber harvest and road construction, processed 28 renewals, conducted two FRPA inspections, and issued two Title 16 permits for culvert installations on a cataloged streams.

Douglas staff reviewed one DPO for land conversion, issued one Title 16 permit to maintain fish passage on a forest road culvert, and conducted one road inspection on Yak-Tat-Kwaan land. Staff surveyed approximately 35 streams for anadromous fish presence, resulting in seven nominations for the Anadromous Waters Catalog (AWC).

Southcentral Region

Anchorage had no activity to report.

Soldotna had no activity to report.

Palmer staff reviewed one DPO for commercial timber harvest in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, and processed one renewal.

PRIVATE AND OTHER PUBLIC (NON-DNR) LANDS CONT.

Interior Region

^a AS 41.17.060 (c)(7)

^b AS 41.17.098 (d)

^c AS 41.17.910 (b) and (c).

Fairbanks staff reviewed one annual DPO amendment on Gana-A 'Yoo land to support Sustainable Energy program in Galena (SEGA).

STATE LAND

Table 2 contains FRPA activities on State land.

Southeast Region

Craig staff commented on five Preliminary Best Interest Findings (BIF), five Draft Forest Land Use Plans (FLUP), one Five Year Schedule of Timber Sales (FYSTS) and conducted 4 inspections.

Douglas staff reviewed and commented on the Haines State Forest Management Plan.

Southcentral Region

Anchorage had no activity to report.

Soldotna had no activity to report.

Palmer had no activity to report.

Interior Region

Fairbanks staff reviewed and commented on the Tanana Valley State Forest Management Plan, eight FLUPs, five BIFs, one DPO, one fuel break project, and 11 personal use firewood permits. Staff issued three Title 16 Fish Habitat permits for winter logging road stream crossings.

FEDERAL LAND

Table 3 contains activities on federal land.

Southeast Region

Craig staff issued 34 individual concurrences for fish passage and restoration projects on Prince of Wales Island (POW).

Douglas staff issued 25 Fish Habitat concurrences related to culverts and bridges (17), stream crossings (1), and stream restoration (7) on Tongass National Forest (TNF) land. Staff surveyed approximately 360 streams on TNF land resulting in approximately 95 nominations to the Anadromous Waters Catalog.

Southcentral Region

No activity reported.

Interior Region

No activity reported.

FOREST PRACTICES IMPLEMENTATION

COMPLIANCE AND EFFECTIVENESS MONITORING

Habitat staff participated with the Division of Forestry monitoring FRPA compliance and effectiveness as well as participated in the DOF effectiveness monitoring meeting.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

ANADROMOUS WATERS CATALOG

Douglas staff continued field work to catalog anadromous streams on Yak Tat Kwaan Land, land parcels that may be transferred from the USFS under the Alaska Native Landless Equity Act but have not yet been conveyed, and TNF land throughout Southeast Alaska under Alaska Sustainable Salmon Fund grants. Surveys targeted timber lands, relict logging road systems, and areas that may have future development.

TONGASS COMPLIANCE AND EFFECTIVENESS MONITORING

In a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Habitat Section and USFS Alaska Region, USFS Agreement No. 194-MU-11100100-108, ADF&G agrees to participate annually in BMP monitoring field visits.

TONGASS FISH PASSAGE

ADF&G continues to work with the USFS to evaluate fish passage across the forest and prioritize fish passage restoration projects.

BUDGET AND PERSONNEL

BUDGET

ADF&G funding for FRPA activities conducted during calendar year 2025 came from state general funds. The Alaska Sustainable Salmon Fund provided funding to identify and nominate freshwater anadromous fish habitat to the AWC in areas where timber harvest is anticipated.

PERSONNEL

New Hires

Takoda Edlund, Habitat Biologist I, Douglas

Resignations

Jesse Lindgren, Habitat Biologist III, Douglas

STATEMENT OF FRPA EFFECTIVENESS

ADF&G considers FRPA and its regulations effective for maintaining fish habitat within the classified surface water types during forestry related activities. The Habitat Section works cooperatively with the Division of Forestry, the Department of Environmental Conservation,

landowners, and operators to implement FRPA to protect important fish habitat, water quality, and important wildlife habitat from the effects of timber harvest activities.

CALENDAR YEAR 2026

WORKLOAD PRIORITIES

FRPA participation remains a Habitat Section workload priority in addition to anadromous waters cataloging, Title 16 fish habitat and special area permitting, large projects of importance to the State, and research to aid in permitting decisions. Habitat Section staff continue to work with the ADF&G Divisions of Sport Fish, Commercial Fisheries, and Wildlife Conservation, and the ADNDR Division of Forestry, to identify fish bearing waters and important wildlife habitat on timberlands, participate in forestry reviews, and conduct forestry related fieldwork. Habitat staff will continue AKSSF-funded stream surveys on private lands held by Alaska Native corporations where logging has or could potentially occur.

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

If requested, the Habitat Section will participate in Division of Forestry-sponsored training for agency staff and operators to describe fish habitat permitting under the Anadromous Fish and Fishway Acts and strategies to avoid, minimize and mitigate impacts to important fish and wildlife resources and habitats.

Table 1.–FRPA activities on private and other public (non-DNR) lands.

Area	DPO	Renewals	Change in Operations	Variation Requests	Variation Inspections	Other FRPA Inspections	FHPs Issued	AWC Updates
Southern Southeast	Naukati (2) - Viking	Naukati (18) - Viking	Coon Cove (1) - Alcan	0	0	Big Salt (1) - Sealaska	1	0
	George Inlet (1) - Alcan		Shelter Cove (1) - Alcan			Kina Cove (1) - Sealaska		
	Shelter Cove (1) - Alcan							
	Exchange Cove (1) - Alcan							
	Whipple Creek (1) - Alcan							
Northern Southeast	Peterson Creek - Goldbelt, Inc. (1)					Yak Tat Kwann (1)		7
Anchorage	No Activity							0
Soldotna	No Activity							0
Palmer	Zero Lake Salvage (1) Matsu Borough	Baker Farm Road (1) Matsu Borough						0
Fairbanks	Gana-A'Yoo Limited	SEGA Continued Winter Harvest						0

Table 2.–FRPA activities on state land.

Area	BIFS	SFMP	FYSTS	FLUP	Personal Use Firewood	House Log Sales	FRPA Inspections	FHPs Issued	AWC Updates
Southern Southeast	Backside		FYSTS 26-30	Backside			Exchange Cove (1)		
	Odyssey			Odyssey El Norte			Coffman Cove (1)		
	Tuxekan			Tuxekan					
	West Hollis			Odyssey Exchange					
	Parlay			West Hollis					
Northern Southeast	No Activity								
Anchorage	No Activity								
Soldotna	No Activity								
Palmer	No Activity								
Fairbanks	Cache Crk Miix			Cache Crk Mix	14			2	
	Quartz Lk Mix			Quartz Lk Mix					
	Woodstove Spruce			Woodstove Spruce					
	Anderson Spruce								
	Nenana Ridge Complex			Nenana Ridge Complex					
	Underwear Ridge Spruce								
	Young Neg Sale								
	Underwear Ridge Spruce								

Table 3.—Activities on federal land.

Area	NEPA	Field Visits	Concurrences
Southern Southeast			Bridges (2) - TRD
			Culverts (14) - TRD
			S. Fork Shaheen Restoration - TRD
			Ward Lake Restoration - KMRD
			Equipment Crossings (10) - TRD
Northern Southeast			Culverts/Bridges (17) - HRD (13), YRD (3), SRD (1)
			Stream Restoration (7) - JRD (5), YRD (1), SRD (1)
			Stream Crossings (1) - SRD
TRD= Thorne Bay Ranger District KMRD=Ketchikan Misty Fjords Ranger District HRD=Hoonah Ranger District			

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