

Alaska Department of Natural Resources
Division of Forestry

Annual Report 2013

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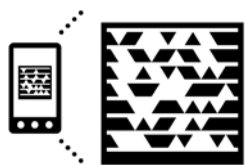
Annual Report 2013

ALASKA DIVISION OF FORESTRY

The Alaska Department of Natural Resources
Division of Forestry:

- 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 commercial use, personal use and fuel woods
- Protects water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, and other forest values through appropriate forest practices and administration of Forest Resources and Practices Act
- Manages the Southeast, Haines and Tanana Valley state forests, which cover a total of 2.1 million acres
- Administers Community Forestry, Conservation Education, Forest Health and Forest Stewardship programs
- Gives technical assistance to owners and managers of forested land.

The State Forester's Office is located in Anchorage. In addition, the division has two regional offices and nine area offices responsible for program support and field work. In 2013, the Division has 175 permanent full-time employees, 188 permanent part time and seasonal positions and 13 interns.



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This publication was released by the Alaska Department of Natural Resources to provide information about the operations of the Division of Forestry during 2013. This report was printed in Anchorage, AK at a cost of \$5.00 per copy. The 2013 Annual Report was produced by the Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry.

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Governor Sean Parnell STATE OF ALASKA

Dear Fellow Alaskans,

Our great state is blessed with extensive renewable forests we all enjoy in many ways. Present and future generations will rely on sustainable, multiple-use forestry options for heat, energy, tourism, recreation, watersheds, wildlife habitat, and timber. Our decisions today will determine our state's future in Forestry.

Alaska's forests must be working forests that provide economic opportunity, jobs, and access while also supporting other uses such as hunting, fishing, and other outdoor recreation. Working forests require a stable and dedicated land base for the long term. In Alaska, this occurs when general State lands are placed into a State working forest. Only three State forests have been created since statehood, and I worked with the Legislature to create one of them, the Southeast State Forest. I will continue to expand or create new and better opportunities for the use of forest resources by Alaskans.



In recent years, we have experienced longer fire seasons and changes in fire timing and location. These fires can be destructive to communities and endanger Alaskan lives. I am proud of our brave Alaskan wildland and local community firefighters who risk their lives to ensure our safety and the future of Alaska's forests. We can assist our firefighters by taking necessary precautions and making our homes defensible from wildland fire.

Together, we are building a bright future for Alaska that celebrates the beauty and benefits that our forests provide. Please join me in supporting this important and renewable resource.

Best regards,

A stylized, handwritten signature of Sean Parnell in blue ink.

Sean Parnell
Governor

STATE FORESTER'S COMMENTS

A Division in Transition Or The Stem Exclusion Phase

Once again it is time to reflect back on the accomplishments and challenges of the past year, the Division had its share of each. To me, and I imagine to many of you, the pace of change in the Division continues to pick up momentum as we see peers and colleagues departing, either to retire or to take the next step in their careers. In turn, this creates opportunities for you and others looking to join a workforce and forest/fire management program that can stand with the best in the country. One of the most important tasks we are faced with over the next five years is making a successful transition in leadership throughout the Division. Attracting and retaining employees that have the experience and skills, both technical and interpersonal to continue the important work the Division does every day.

Year after year, the Division produces results. I see this manifested in many ways, the solid representation of our staffs in the Governor's Denali awards program, the successful management of project fires and some great work on initial and extended attack fires. I also see students in our various wildland fire academies learning new skills, including a solid work ethic that results in the pride of a job well done. Over the past two years, the Division has been able to further that education by offering 22 short term (10 weeks) internships to provide students with real life experience in wildland fire employment across the range of positions commonly utilized by our agency. This education, training and experience "pipeline" is preparing program participants for placement with the Division as positions come open and they compete for the job offer. This year, three previous Academy graduates joined our ranks as full-time seasonal employees. Congratulations!

In addition to our accomplishments, we also have had some challenges. Identifying long-term stable funding for our agency crews continues to be a priority and we had partial success this last fiscal year, but will need to continue our efforts to fully resolve this issue. These crews are an important part of the skill and experience development process that lead to higher level responsibilities and are important "pipelines" for our next level managers and leaders in the Division. These crews also act as mentors and standard setters for our EFF crews and model professional demeanor and work ethics.

Finally, I'd be remiss if I didn't call out our forest resource management staffs, who continue to use innovation and teamwork to address timber management needs in new ways. Reductions in the workforce and staff changes have put less boots on the ground this past year and the smaller staff have had to rise to the challenge of increasing sale offers, including developing a long-term timber sale in the Tok and Fairbanks areas to meet the needs of a growing timber industry. Woody biomass and various wood based bioenergy projects continue to be of high interest in many locations throughout the state and providing communities and individuals with a renewable, well managed forest to address their energy needs is both exciting and fun.

I hope you will spread the word about the many opportunities in our Division and look forward to seeing you in the woods or on the fire line in the year ahead.



Chris Maisch
Alaska State Forester



Chris Maisch, State Forester and 2014 NASF President, Jeff Jahnke (former Alaska State Forester and Colorado State Forester), and Dean Brown, Deputy State Forester at the 2013 National Association of State Foresters Annual Meeting. Photo: John Campbell, Virginia State Forestry.

Chris Maisch Elected President of National Association of State Foresters

Alaska State Forester and Director of the Division of Forestry Chris Maisch has been appointed to serve as president of the National Association of State Foresters (NASF).

Maisch has served on the NASF board of directors since 2010 and was most recently the organization's vice president. He was elected to his new post, which has a one-year term, at the NASF annual meeting held the last week of September in Virginia.

In his address to the NASF membership, Maisch stated, "Active forest management on our federal lands is not meeting the scale, scope or pace necessary to make a significant difference in economic activity, forest health and wildland fire conditions across the country. This resolution will provide the opportunity to have meaningful dialog with Congress on ways to improve this situation and help our key partner, the U.S. Forest Service, develop new approaches to address this issue, including demonstration or pilot projects that will allow states to manage a subset of federal forest lands."

During the annual meeting, the NASF membership discussed and passed a resolution concerning forest management on federal lands. Many of the concepts and principles in the resolution lend support to recommendations included in a report issued last year by Governor Parnell's Alaska Timber Jobs Task Force. To read the NASF resolution, go to <http://www.stateforesters.org/federal-forests-resolution>.

Established in 1920, NASF is a non-profit organization comprised of the directors of forestry agencies in the U.S. states, territories and the District of Columbia. It is recognized as a leading authority on forest policy and advocates legislation and policies that promote the role of trees, forests, and the professionals that manage them. For more information, go to www.stateforesters.org.

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

Thomas Boutin
March 1993 to January 1997

Dean Brown (acting)
January 1997 to July 1997

Jeff Jahnke
July 1997 to July 2005

Dean Brown (acting)
July 2005 to October 2005

John "Chris" Maisch
October 2005 to present

2013 AT A GLANCE

Forest Resources

- The Division of Forestry issued a final finding and offered for sale a 25-year biomass timber sale near Tok. There were no bidders for this sale although parties continue to express interest in such a sale.
- Discussions continue with federal agencies interested in the possibility of a long-term biomass timber sale near Delta to supply Fort Greely.
- Interest continues to build for smaller biomass timber sales to supply heat to public buildings in rural communities. Superior Pellet Fuels of North Pole submitted a request for a negotiated high value added biomass timber sale.
- The Ketchikan office sold a 137 acre young growth timber sale for over one million dollars.
- There were 50 sales sold statewide for a total of 9,556 MBF.

Fire Management

- Suppressed 96.1% of fires in Critical and Full Management Options at 10 acres or less.
- Minimized the loss of homes due to wildland fire to ten structures (four residences and six outbuildings).
- Safely managed 608 fires for over 1.3 million acres burned statewide. Managed several large Type 1, 2 & 3 fires within AMSA, VCRA, TAF, DAF and FAF.
- Mobilized and provided jobs to 727 Emergency Firefighters (EFF), resulting in nearly \$4.5 million in EFF wages. Mobilized 62 personnel and 9 crews to the Lower 48 to supplement the national firefighting workforce and provided extended employment to over 600 Alaskans.
- Coordinated significantly to Alaska's economy hiring more than 625 vendors.
- Coordinated public, media and elected official outreach for wildland fire incidents.
- Assisted the Department of Homeland Security with the response and recovery phase of the flood event in Galena.

- Supported the US Forest Service in the Lower 48 with four Alaska air tankers.
- Hired, trained and managed 17 non-perms to provide operational, dispatch and administrative support.
- Provided fire training and physical fitness tests to more than 2,600 personnel including 852 Emergency Firefighters (EFF) to be utilized primarily on village crews, 1,447 Volunteer Fire Department (VFD) and local government firefighters, and Forestry personnel.
- Developed two Community Wildlife Protection Plans. Reduced hazard fuels on 190 acres as identified in these plans.
- Reduced the potential number of human-caused fires by conducting 93 fire prevention presentations to schools, civic groups, youth organizations, homeowners and contractors.
- Collaborated with local Boroughs to provide 1,817 Home "Firewise" assessments; and issued 74 warnings, 7 citations and assembled two court cases.
- Purchased two Aero Commanders to provide aerial supervision and enhance safety to firefighters.
- Moved radio communications system from wide-band repeaters to narrow-band repeaters and Alaska Land Mobile Radio (ALMR).
- Trained twenty two Type 2 Emergency Firefighter crew bosses at the Alaska Crew Boss Academy.
- Assisted the Oregon Department of Forestry with initiating and building a helicopter firefighting program.

Mike Curran Honored with Denali Award

Governor Sean Parnell presented a Denali Award recognizing Mike Curran as an Honorable Mention in the Leadership Award category. The Governor noted that Mike Curran's career with DNR started in 1998 when he took the job as the Regional Forester in Ketchikan. He took the job at a time when forestry issues in Southeast Alaska were reaching a crisis point. He recruited, hired and trained a small staff to tackle major challenges to the region's timber industry as the timber supply from the Tongass National Forest declined dramatically. Under his leadership, the state was able to sell more wood to local operators than the U.S. Forest Service – even though the state had less than one-tenth of the timber base overseen by the federal government.

The Denali Award recognition stated: "Mike built a strong, stable state forestry team in Southeast Alaska that has helped ensure a continued supply of timber from state lands. He played a critical role in the successful creation and expansion of the Southeast State Forest.

Due to his excellent leadership skills, he has been pulled into statewide projects, as well. For example, he organized and is leading a special large project team to facilitate new biomass projects in Interior Alaska. He has also helped integrate the fire and forest resources program staff to broaden the skill-set of individual employees to improve the overall effectiveness of the Division of Forestry."



Mike Curran receiving Denali Award from Governor Parnell, stating "Mike is an inspiration to his staff and he has been a key ingredient to many of the state's key successes in managing state forests". Larry Hartig, DEC Commissioner and former Board of Forestry member at far right.

FOREST RESOURCES AND PRACTICES

Forest Practices Compliance Monitoring

Background

The Alaska Forest Resources and Practices Act (FRPA) is designed to protect fish habitat and water quality during forestry operations. FRPA (AS 41.17) and the best management practices (BMPs) in its regulations (11 AAC 95) govern timber harvesting, reforestation, and road design, construction, maintenance, and closure. The Act requires compliance monitoring and effectiveness monitoring to ensure that the resource protection goals are met. Compliance monitoring assesses whether timber operations are properly implementing FRPA and its regulations. Effectiveness monitoring evaluates whether the BMPs successfully protect water quality and fish habitat if they are implemented properly.

Compliance monitoring program

The Division of Forestry (DOF) conducts compliance monitoring as part of its field inspections of forest operations on state, municipal, private, and trust land. The Division has compiled eleven years of data for Region I (coastal Alaska from Kodiak Island through Southeast), eleven years for Region II (the rest of southcentral Alaska), and ten years for Region III (interior Alaska).

Division foresters complete compliance monitoring score sheets for applicable best management practices during field inspections. Each BMP is rated on a scale from 1 (rarely and ineffectively implemented) to 5 (consistently and effectively implemented). Any scores less than 4 are highlighted for follow-up with training and, if necessary, enforcement actions.

Results

Since 2003, the Division has compiled nearly 20,000 individual field ratings of best management practices. In 2013, the agencies conducted 211 field inspections on forest operations statewide and compliance monitoring score sheets were part of every inspection. The data shows solid implementation rates in all regions. Overall, Regions I and II averaged 4.9 out of 5.0 on the ratings, and Region III scored 4.3. Figures 1 and 2 show the mean scores for each region and the percentage of BMP scores that are equal to or higher than 4.0.

The ratings for Region III demonstrate the importance of the compliance monitoring program. In 2009, compliance monitoring revealed numerous road maintenance issues on state land in Interior Alaska, and the proportion of scores



Fortune Creek Bridge closed for safety in Cache Creek Road, Tanana Valley State Forest. Photo: Jim Schwarber.

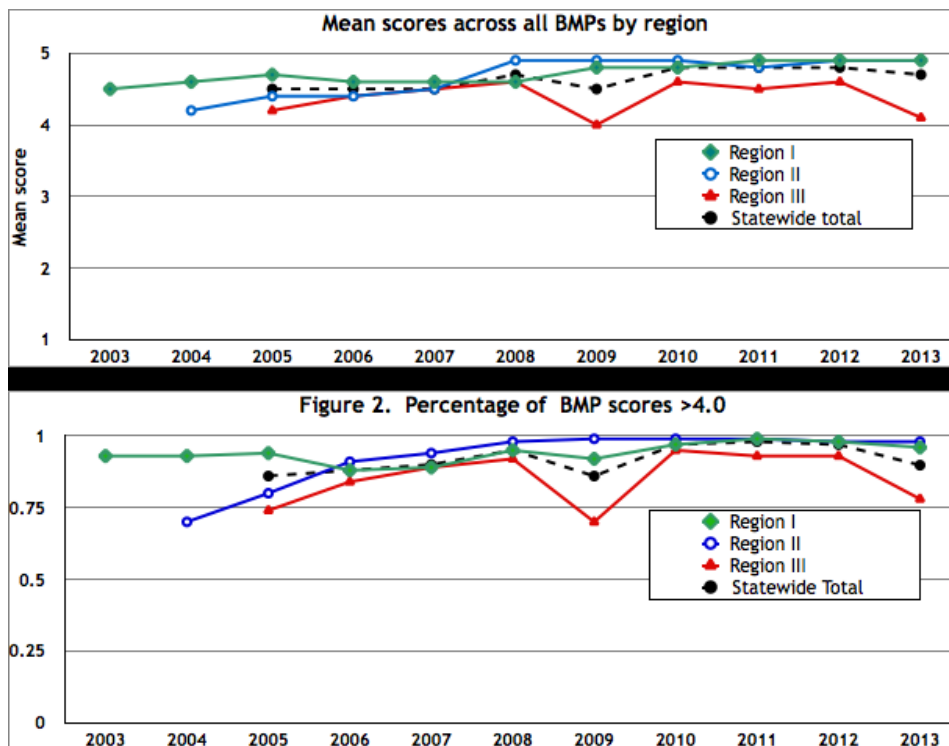
equal to or above 4.0 dropped to 70%. The state responded with a funding increment for road maintenance, and the Division of Forestry was able to strengthen maintenance activities and fix the problems. Road maintenance problems identified in 2013 compliance monitoring in Region III will be addressed in the 2014 field season.

Road condition surveys

The Division of Forestry and the Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) Habitat Division have also conducted joint road condition surveys in Southeast and Southcentral Alaska. The surveys determine whether the roads, bridges, and culverts are properly maintained or closed and whether the stream crossing structures are passing fish. Many of the older roads were built and closed out prior to the 1993 adoption of the BMPs. Where surveys identify fish passage problems, the agencies measure the extent of upstream fish habitat to help prioritize remediation work. The surveys also assess reforestation in harvest units along the roads.

Southeast surveys

From 2004 through 2010, the agencies surveyed 829 (out of 3220 total) miles of inactive and closed roads in Southeast including evaluations of all the stream crossings on these roads. The surveys found significant fish passage problems on only 20 of the 109 fish culverts evaluated. One was replaced by a bridge and four were replaced by more sufficient culverts. Overall results showed no other fish passage problems, as all crossings occupied by bridges were fully functional and many road systems were closed with culverts removed and natural drainage reestablished.



Note: The sample size for the first year of monitoring in Region II was too small to calculate meaningful averages and percentages, therefore the graphs do not include the first year of Region II data.

Southcentral surveys

Between 2011 and 2013, DOF and ADF&G surveyed 276 miles of active, inactive, and closed roads on the Kenai Peninsula and around Tyonek. In 2014, the agencies will complete surveys of the roughly six miles of forest road on the central Kenai Peninsula and begin new surveys on the south side of Kachemak Bay. Results to date show that on the Kenai, most roads are in good shape with a high percentage of crossing structures adequately providing for fish passage. Full results of the Kenai Peninsula Borough forest road inventory should be available at the end of 2014. Upstream habitat surveys began on the low rated fish culverts in October 2013 to determine how much fish habitat will be extended by repair or replacement of the structure. The habitat surveys will be complete after the 2014 field season.

In the Tyonek area, the forest roads were in excellent shape and many are now being utilized for oil and gas exploration. Routine maintenance is actively taking place. On one section of forest road, four of six culverts were rated low for their ability to pass fish, and will need surveys to determine how much upstream habitat would become available upon replacement. Much of the forest road system in Tyonek was built prior to the enactment of FRPA in 1990.

Summary

Systematic compliance monitoring and extensive road conditions surveys demonstrate that forest operations have an excellent record of FRPA implementation. Monitoring has identified few problems, and where compliance is insufficient, the agencies and landowners have responded with training and remediation to fix the problems.

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2013 FRPA ACTIVITIES ON PRIVATE, MUNICIPAL AND TRUST LANDS

TEN-YEAR RECORD OF TIMBER VOLUME OFFERED (MBF)						NUMBER OF PERSONAL USE PERMITS - FISCAL YEAR 10-13			
	Coastal: Southeast	Coastal: Southcentral	Northern Region	State Total	# Sales Offered Statewide		Coastal/ Southcentral	Northern Region	State Total
FY 04	13,564	21,133	7,653	42,350	64	FY 10	759	1072	1831
FY 05	21,318	37,929	17,460	76,706	101	FY 11	546	864	1410
FY 06	17,335	37,346	29,233	83,914	93	FY 12	--*	--*	1325
FY 07	30,945	30,228	21,775	82,948	85	FY 13	--*	--*	1366
FY 08	10,567	4,316	21,990	36,873	82	* New online system is not region specific.			
FY 09	5,597	1,451	26,666	33,714	104				
FY 10	4,626	2,734	23,622	30,982	83				
FY 11	12,859	3,913	32,856	49,628	96				
FY 12	8,556	1,260	28,915	38,731	68				
FY 13	4,976	1,918	2,662	9,556	50				

2013 FRPA ACTIVITIES ON PRIVATE, MUNICIPAL, AND TRUST LAND: NUMBER OF NEW NOTIFICATIONS (DPOS)					2013 FRPA ACTIVITIES ON PRIVATE, MUNICIPAL, AND TRUST LAND: HARVEST ACREAGE IN NEW NOTIFICATIONS				
	2010	2011	2012	2013		2010	2011	2012	2013
SSE	61	54	32	28	SSE	17,532	5,577	8,373	8,350
NSE	8	6	3	5	NSE	1,740	2,241	6,379	707
Mat-Su/SW	0	11	--	2	Mat-Su/SW	--	--	--	131
Kenai-Kodiak	15	0	13	7	Kenai-Kodiak	7,389	4,684	8,918	836
COASTAL	84	71	48	42	COASTAL	26,661	12,502	23,670	10,024
Fairbanks	1	0	5	12	Fairbanks	168	--	161	174
Delta	0	0	0	0	Delta	--	--	--	--
Tok	0	4	4	0	Tok	--	2940	3,685	--
Copper R.	0	1	0	0	Copper R.	--	205	--	--
NORTHERN	1	5	9	12	NORTHERN	168	3,145	3,846	174
TOTAL	85	76	57	54	TOTAL	26,829	15,647	27,516	10,198

TIMBER PROGRAM REVENUE BY FISCAL YEAR
(IN THOUSAND DOLLARS)

FY 04	660.3	FY 09	617.0
FY 05	834.5	FY 10	521.9
FY 06	502.5	FY 11	371.9
FY 07	661.9	FY 12	601.7
FY 08	1260.5	FY 13	860.9

Note: Timber program revenue is primarily from timber sales; approx. 2% of the revenue comes from other sources, including log brands, seedlings, retained damages and document fees.

Units of measurement: Board foot (bf) = the unit used to measure lumber. One board foot equals one foot square by one inch thick

MBF = thousand board feet

State Fiscal Year 2012 runs from July 2011 through June 2012.

Mass Wasting Regulations

Amended regulations governing forest practices and mass wasting were filed by the Lieutenant Governor and went into effect on September 25, 2013. The fieldbook of FRPA regulations has been updated to include these amendments and other regulation changes since 2007. DOF is now using the new mass wasting standards when reviewing Detailed Plans of Operation, conducting field inspections, and providing operator training. The amended regulations are available on the DOF website: http://forestry.alaska.gov/pdfs/FRPA_regulations_GREEN_BOOK_October_2013.pdf.

Board of Forestry

The nine-member Board of Forestry advises the state on forest practices and provides a forum for discussion and resolution of forest resource issues. The board also reviews all proposed changes to the Alaska Forest Resources and Practices Act (FRPA) and its regulations. Board members are appointed by the governor for three-year terms and represent a variety of forestry-related interests. All board meetings include an opportunity for public comment.

In 2013, the board held hearings in Fairbanks, Juneau, and Soldotna. Key issues included:

- Southeast forest management, including shortages in the Tongass National Forest timber supply; land ownership issues involving Sealaska Corporation, the Mental Health Trust, and the US Forest Service; litigation on implementation of the Roadless Rule in Alaska; and Supreme Court action on nonpoint source pollution and forest roads.
- Wood energy expansion across Alaska, including Alaska Energy Authority projects for feasibility assessment, design, and construction of wood energy facilities.
- Application of FRPA to biomass harvesting in remote areas and to large, long-term timber sales in the interior. The Board recommended that DOF convene a science and technical committee to review the reforestation standards in interior and southcentral Alaska.
- Proposed establishment of a Susitna State Forest.
- Ongoing implementation of the Alaska Timber Jobs Task Force recommendations.
- Budgets and funding to implement the Forest Resources and Practices Act.

The Board meeting in Soldotna included a Kenai Forestry Forum and a field visit to public and private forest lands to review forest conditions following the spruce bark beetle epidemic, forest regeneration, and forest road conditions.

While in Fairbanks, the Board heard reports on University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) forest research under the Boreal Alaska Learning, Adaptation, and Production (BAKLAP) program and proposed reorganization of UAF forestry and natural resources programs, and attended a meeting of the Tanana Valley Citizens Advisory Committee.

2013 BOARD OF FORESTRY

Matthew A. Cronin, Ph.D.
Non-governmental Fish or
Wildlife Biologist,
Anchorage

Jeff Foley
Mining Organization,
Anchorage

Chris Maisch, Chair
State Forester, Fairbanks

Erin McLarnon
Recreation Organization,
Willow

Eric Nichols
Forest Industry Trade Association,
Ketchikan

Wayne Nicolls
Non-Governmental Forester,
Juneau

Chris Stark
Environmental Organization,
Fairbanks (from August, 2012)

Mark Vinsel
Commercial Fishery,
Juneau

Ron Wolfe
Native Corporation,
Juneau

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Coastal Region Timber Sales

The long-term demand for State timber remains high in the Coastal Region and the Division of Forestry is working diligently to meet those demands.

The timber industry in Southeast is struggling to find long-term timber supplies. Strategic changes in forest management on Forest Service land, combined with diminishing harvestable timber on native lands, will require the industry to obtain timber on State land. Limited quantities of second growth timber is available for harvest, and not in sufficient supply to allow timber for the industry to re-tool for manufacturing products from second-growth timber. Sealaska Corporation will continue timber harvest on their lands into 2015; afterwards, they plan to purchase timber from other landowners.

Southeast Alaska's remaining mid-sized mill—Viking Lumber—did not purchase state timber in 2013, but continue to log timber sales purchased from the State and the Forest Service in 2012. The Division of Forestry anticipates that Viking Lumber will need 15 -25 MMBF of state timber if the Forest Service is unable to offer timber. Small, negotiated timber sales will be offered at locations that will meet the needs for small mills in Southeast Alaska. The Division is determining infrastructure needs for prospective timber sales on Gravina and Kosciusko Islands.

Private companies continue to explore possible commercial operations on Prince of Wales Island, in Haines, on the Kenai Peninsula, the Mat-Su Valley, and in Tok. The City and Borough of Haines completed a feasibility study for heating with biomass. Although they have not opted to use wood from the Haines State Forest, it remains an option. The Division of Forestry in Haines continues to provide technical assistance regarding biomass to the Borough. The City and Borough of Haines opted to install a pellet boiler in the Senior Center, and are considering installing additional boilers in other municipal buildings. The feasibility study for constructing biomass-generated power continues in Tok. The Tok School continues to use biomass for their hydronic heating systems; Tanacross and Mentasta are also developing wood fire boiler systems to reduce energy costs. The Coastal Region continues to provide technical assistance and expertise to communities exploring the prospects of heating with biomass. The demand for state timber will increase across Alaska if biomass projects become operational.

Timber harvest operations continue on Afognak and Kodiak islands, harvesting spruce logs for export. Proportionately more of the timber sold recently on the Kenai Peninsula is green as compared to past sales consisting almost completely of beetle-killed timber. The local Timber industry in Tok, the Mat-Su Valley, and on the Kenai Peninsula continues to produce lumber as well as specialized products such as log cabin kits and siding. The Division of Forestry established two Engineering Assistant positions to design and oversee construction of logging roads and bridge crossings for timber extraction. These projects include the design of a Log Transfer Facility (LTF) and access roads in southeast and a winter ice road and ice bridge crossing for the Little Susitna River in the Mat-Su valley in order to access timber for future sales.

The demand for firewood continues to be high on the Kenai Peninsula, the Mat Su/Anchorage area, and in Tok. On-line permitting has made the fire wood permitting process a little easier. Foresters continue to lay out firewood areas, based on local demand. The Division of Forestry established a personal use firewood area near Dillingham. The Division of Forestry met with the Village of Napaimute Corporation and discussed Forest Practices requirements for harvesting commercial firewood to be sold to communities further down the Kuskokwim and along the coast, where firewood is scarce.

Northern Region Timber Sales

Maintaining a sustainable supply of timber and meeting the needs of both the forest products industry and the public continues to be a focus of the Northern Region. The increasing demand is due to large biomass proposals for development of wood energy facilities in the Tanana Valley.

High fuel oil prices continue to influence personal-use and commercial firewood harvests throughout the Region. The Division continues to provide information to communities concerning the benefits of burning dry, well-seasoned wood compared to burning freshly-harvested green wood and is working with the Fairbanks North Star Borough in support of the "Split, Stack, Store, and Save" informational initiative. The cities of Fairbanks and North Pole continue to face scrutiny from the federal Environmental Protection Agency for high levels of particulate matter related to winter wood-burning. Timber theft is an ongoing issue on both State and Fairbanks North Star Borough lands. As a result of illegal cutting of large white spruce, the Rosie Creek Road is still gated.

Fairbanks Area continues to work with the Division of Mining, Land, and Water and the Fairbanks North Star

Borough to access timber burnt by the 2011 Hastings Fire. The Pete Simpson Memorial Road was constructed as a fire line during the Hasting Fire and there is an estimated 4,864 acres of assessable burnt timber within Unit 4 of the Tanana Valley State Forest. This includes spruce saw timber, birch, and aspen. Based on Tanana Valley inventory data, approximately 177,270 tons of wood could be salvaged. The road is named in memory of long-time DOF Forester Pete Simpson who had a lasting impact on the Division's wildland fire management program and was active with many community forestry events.

The operation of the wood-fired boiler at the Delta/Greely School District has proven to be very successful. There remains a strong interest in wood energy development throughout the Interior and a continued strong working relationship with the local communities and varied interests throughout the Tanana Basin is critical to the success of these projects.

The Northern Region received a DPO for harvest operations at Fort Yukon, for their biomass heating project in the community. Two foresters from DOF and a habitat biologist performed a field inspection on the upcoming operation and provided forest practices training for the operators and the managers. Three DPOs were also received from the North Star Borough for fire wood sales.

The majority of forest practices inspections this year focused primarily on state administered timber sales. Compliance inspections indicated that Best Management Practices were implemented on the sales.

The Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC) of the Tanana Valley State Forest provides tremendous outreach to the public throughout the state to keep them informed of the challenges and activities of the Division of Forestry in the Tanana Valley. With the long-term biomass harvest proposals in the middle and upper portions of the Tanana Valley, effective public communications is essential. CAC Meetings are held throughout the year with the exception of a summer recess.

Salvage operations were started in the Delta and Tok area to recover timber that was blown down in the huge wind event of 2012, and for fire salvage from the 2013 Mississippi River fire near Delta and Eagle Trail and Moon Lake burns in the Tok Area.

The long-term demand for State timber remains high in the Coastal Region and the Division of Forestry is working diligently to meet those demands.



*Caribou at Kenai-Kodiak Area Office.
Photo by John Winters.*

Resource Management Tongass

The Division of Forestry continued its involvement with the United States Forest Service (FS) in the implementation of the Tongass National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan. As part of the State-Tongass Team, the Division provides language, regarding forest management objectives and project economics, for inclusion in the State of Alaska's consolidated comments on various FS National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents. In July, the State and the USFS extended for one year all of the current MOUs related to the implementation of the Tongass Forest Plan; work is ongoing to consolidate all the MOUs into one. In 2013, several Tongass NF Ranger Districts began including State of Alaska employees as members of Interdisciplinary teams (IDT). Although State personnel have been involved in IDTs in the past, this is the first time State employee involvement has been documented in the Project Initiation Letter.

Under the Economic Timber Memorandum of Understanding between the State and United State Forest Service, DOF continues to work with the FS and its contractors on the following timber sale projects; Wrangell Island on the Wrangell Ranger District, Big Thorne on the Thorne Bay Ranger District, and Saddle Lakes on the Ketchikan-Misty Fiords Ranger District. Volume offered for sale in federal fiscal year 2013 (October 2012 to September 2013)

increased to 115 million board feet (MMBF); however the majority of the volume (~100 MMBF) offered for sale was never awarded due to the Regional Forester's decision to "delay any implementation of the Big Thorne project, including bid opening and contract award...". Volume sold by the FS decreased in fiscal year 2013 to a total volume of 16 MMBF.

During 2013, the Tongass National Forest conducted a 5 year review of the 2008 Tongass Land and Resource Management Plan. Mandated under the National Forest Management Act of 1976, periodic assessments are required, "to determine whether modifications are necessary to clarify or adjust the direction of forest management." (10-1013 USFS press release) The review included public meetings in Ketchikan, Craig, Wrangell, Petersburg, Juneau, Sitka and Haines. Conservation strategy summits were held in Ketchikan and Juneau. An extended public comment period closed at the end of June. Comments were received on a range of topics, including young-growth management, the Roadless Rule, watershed restoration, mining, renewable energy, and local economies. Within the comments submitted by the State of Alaska was the request to conduct a forest-level analysis to determine whether the current regulatory framework (i.e. Roadless Area Conservation Rule) provides the Forest Service with the ability to comply with the Tongass Timber Reform Act (TTRA) Section 101. Although the final report on the 5 year review has not been

TONGASS NATIONAL FOREST TIMBER SALE PROGRAM 2001-2013 (Volumes in MMBF)

Federal Fiscal Year	TTRA Volume Offered	Timber Volume Offered	Timber Volume Sold	Timber Volume Harvested	Timber Volume Under Contract
2001	119	68	50	48	283
2002	110	57	24	34	296
2003	151	89	36	51	193
2004	153	73	87	46	149
2005	143	110	65	50	104
2006	143	24	85	43	111
2007	116	32	30	19	114
2008	99	42	5	28	97
2009	146	36	10	28	84
2010	173	46	46	36	98
2011	110	44	38	33	105
2012	127	53	53	21	131
2013	143	115	16	36	110
Average	133	61	42	36	144

TTRA VOLUME IS THE TONGASS TIMBER REFORM ACT SEC. 101 "SEEK TO MEET" MARKET DEMAND ESTIMATE

ALL VOLUME NUMBERS BASED ON FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR

FISCAL YEAR IS OCTOBER 1 TO SEPTEMBER 30

TIMBER VOLUME OFFERED FOR ANY YEAR MAY INCLUDE VOLUME OFFERED PREVIOUSLY BUT NOT SOLD

MMBF IS MILLION BOARD FEET

INFORMATION FROM USFS REGION 10 "TIMBER SALE SUMMARY REPORTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS" WEBPAGE

published, an October 1, 2013 press release announced the US Forest Services intent to modify the Forest Plan.

On July 2, 2013, the United States Department of Agriculture issued Secretary's Memorandum 1044-009 entitled, "Addressing Sustainable Forestry in Southeast Alaska". This memorandum outlines how the FS proposes to transition the Tongass National Forest timber sale program from old-growth harvesting to a program that utilizes young growth within the next 15 years. The document in several places addresses the need to maintain "the expertise and infrastructure of the existing industry" by providing "a reliable supply of economically viable timber, with the old growth component decreasing over time". In order to provide sufficient young growth volume to successfully achieve a transition in the proposed timeframe, the Department will seek from Congress relaxation of a statutory requirement that restricts harvest of young growth until it reaches the Culmination of Mean Annual Increment or CMAI. CMAI is the age in the growth cycle of a tree or stand at which the mean annual increment for height, diameter, basal area, or volume is at a maximum. Besides CMAI relief, the Memorandum contains several "action" items including:

- Supplying sufficient old growth "bridge timber"
- Allocating staff and financial resources to planning young growth projects
- Development of rapid transition scenarios by July 30, 2013
- Determination on pursuing an amendment to the Forest Plan by September 30, 2013
- Support research on young-growth management and re-tooling industry
- Develop a plan by Dec. 31, 2013 with USDA-Rural Development to provide financial assistance to re-tool the industry
- Pursue partnerships with foundations, non-profits, corporations and others to advance a young growth industry

The Memorandum ends with the following statement:

"I will remain engaged in this effort to ensure the Tongass National Forest transitions effectively to a timber program based primarily on young growth. It is vital that the Forest Service continue to seek input from and work with stakeholders in the region towards this transition. In that regard, I will approve establishment of an advisory committee under the Federal Advisory Committee Act to provide advice to the Forest Service on how to expedite the transition to young growth management." (Secretary's Memorandum 1044-009)

The Tongass hopes to have the Advisory group in place by mid 2014.

In 2008, the Division received Capital Improvement Project funds in part to provide DOF with the ability to, "provide critical assistance in planning economic timber sales in the Tongass National Forest, so that a viable timber industry can be sustained in Southeast Alaska" (Tongass Implementation Support CIP). In 2012, the Alaska Legislature provided funding to DOF and to the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT) for several road projects which provide access for timber management activities on both state and federal forested lands. Using these funds, the Division of Forestry continues working through multiple partnerships to develop and improve infrastructure while seeking to provide a sustainable economic supply of timber that meets the demand needs of the timber industry in southeast Alaska. Examples of this work include coordinating DOF Southern Southeast Area timber sales with USFS timber sale projects, assistance with the administrative land trade between the Alaska Mental Health Trust and the USFS and involvement in the Gate 1 and Gate 3 committees with private industry, private and public landowners and staff from the Tongass National Forest.

During 2013, the Tongass National Forest conducted a 5 year review of the 2008 Tongass Land and Resource Management Plan.

Mandated under the National Forest Management Act of 1976, periodic assessments are required, "to determine whether modifications are necessary to clarify or adjust the direction of forest management." (10-1013 USFS press release)

The review included public meetings in Ketchikan, Craig, Wrangell, Petersburg, Juneau, Sitka and Haines. Conservation strategy summits were held in Ketchikan and Juneau.

Forest Inventory

Partnerships with state, federal and Native organizations have allowed the forest inventory program to expand its compilation of tabular and spatial forestry data in support of existing and new wood processing and biomass utilization facilities. Project areas have been statewide. State partners include the Alaska Energy Authority and the Alaska Mental Health Trust Office. The Federal partner includes the U.S. Forest Service State & Private Forestry and Native partners include the Native Village of Eyak and the Tanana Chiefs Conference.

Two projects funded in part by the Alaska Energy Authority have assisted DOF in gathering forest inventory information for the Glennallen and Kenai areas. AEA's interest in these projects is to support existing and proposed biomass use. Both Glennallen and Kenai have facilities using biomass to fire Garn solid wood boilers and both these facilities intend to expand their use of raw material. Additionally in Glennallen, a chip fired system is also under consideration. The DOF benefits from the funding through the development of full fledged stand based inventories for the two areas both of which contain extensive state lands holdings. The data will assist forest managers in the Valdez/Copper River and Kenai/Kodiak area forestry offices in the day to day management of their forest resources.

Projects with the Alaska Mental Health Trust Office include inventory of trust lands in the Fairbanks and Icy Bay areas. For the Fairbanks project DOF was able to use the tabular cruise data from the Tanana Valley State Forest inventory and apply those data to the MHT timber types. This is applicable because the MHT lands are adjacent to or nearby to state forest lands. The Icy Bay inventory, which is in progress, involves timber typing and the updating of attributes describing previously harvested areas. This project is in support of timber development in this area. Along with the MHT lands, the timber typing will extend onto state lands and will be used in part to ascertain the feasibility of reestablishing portions of the mainline forest road network.

The USFS State & Private Forestry has assisted in funding inventory work on two biomass supply analyses for the Tok and Talkeetna areas. DOF utilized its TVSF inventory data for the Tok area and its Mat-Su inventory data for the Talkeetna area. These projects produced annual cordwood availability by fixed radii distance from the Tok and Su Valley schools both of which are utilizing or plan to utilize biomass derived fuel. Supply curves were developed for both delivery points graphing delivered price and annual volume availability.



Inventory projects encompassing Native owned lands have spanned the gamut from Interior Alaska to the south central coast. These projects generally are in support of rural biomass development. DOF in partnership with the Tanana Chiefs Conference completed inventory field and data work for McGrath, Tanana and Fort Yukon and utilized DOF's image processing abilities to produce timber type maps for the three villages. Fort Yukon is currently utilizing the vegetation data to schedule its timber harvest and is now harvesting cottonwood biomass for a chip fired system scheduled to be installed in the village. Work for the Native Village of Eyak involved cruising, training and timber typing near the community of Cordova. The inventory also included state lands that are currently providing a source of personal use firewood. Besides the vegetation typing, stands were also classified by slope class to further delineate operable biomass harvest areas.

Planning

Susitna Matanuska Area Plan

The Commissioner of DNR adopted the Susitna Matanuska Area Plan in 2011. This area plan designates about 700,000 acres of state land for Forestry. The plan also recommends consideration of legislative designation of a Susitna State Forest for the forest classified lands. In early 2013, the Alaska Superior Court ruled in favor of the Commissioner regarding his decision to adopt the area plan. This ended the legal action brought by Alaska Survival contesting the adoption of this area plan.

Tanana Basin Area Plan

The Division of Mining, Land and Water began revising the Tanana Basin Area Plan (TBAP) several years ago. DMLW

divided the 14.5 million acre TBAP area into two smaller planning units; the Eastern Tanana Area Plan and the Yukon Tanana Area Plan.

Yukon Tanana Area Plan

During 2012, DMLW conducted a public review of the draft Yukon Tanana Area Plan. At the end of 2013, the Commissioner announced his intention to adopt YTAP, to be effective January 3, 2014. YTAP states that some of the Forestry classified lands are considered appropriate for inclusion within the Tanana Valley State Forest.

Eastern Tanana Area Plan

The DMLW is continuing to work on a draft of the new Eastern Tanana Area Plan. The next steps will include an agency review, followed by the release of a public review draft of the area plan. DMLW and DOF are engaging in regular discussions to help identify lands to be classified for Forestry purposes in ETAP.

Southeast State Forest Management Plan

During 2013, Division staff continued drafting the required forest management plan for the Southeast State Forest. The forest management plan is expected to be completed in 2014. Remaining steps prior to adoption include review of the draft by agencies, the public, and the Board of Forestry.

DOF staff reviews and comments on a wide range other state and federal agency land-use plans to help ensure the Division has continued access to forest resources on state lands, and salvage of timber takes place when forested land is cleared for right-of-ways or other purposes.

Geographic Information System (GIS)

DOF uses GIS technology as a tool to aid in the management of its resources, in both the Resource and Fire Programs. The Division operates statewide on a landscape level, and so uses the system to accomplish two basic functions: 1. spatially convey the Division's actions to the public, industry, and other land managers; and 2. store and document information that is spatially linked and relevant to forest resources and wild land fire management.

The division is replacing the outdated Forestry GIS website and MapOptix webmap with new subject-specific web mapping applications that will be available to the public and internal users. Specific State Forest geographic layers or mission datasets, will also be available for download and individual use through geographic map services published by Alaska State Forestry GIS department.

Alaska Division of Forestry GIS is focusing on combining Resource Area specific data into statewide features to achieve a Common Division Picture (CDP). The CDP will enable foresters to update locally controlled data and have it displayed to the rest of the Division, public and other stakeholders in near real-time.

DOF is continuing to be a partner in the DNR wide ESRI Enterprise License Agreement (ELA). This license agreement allows any DNR employee that has need of GIS software to have that access to the software, along with training. Also, the agreement allows the division to use the most current Esri ArcGIS software suite.

The Division's GIS unit will continue to evolve and mature to better assist in the management of State Forest Lands within Alaska.

2013 TANANA VALLEY STATE FOREST CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Al Pagh, Forest Industry

Brad Cox, Value-Added Processing

Chris Stark, Environmental Interests

Dan Rees, Private Forest User

Tom Malone, Forest Science

Vacant, Native Community

Vacant, Recreation

Vacant, Tourist Industry

Paul Karczmarczyk, Fish and Wildlife Interests

John (Jack) DiMarchi, Mining Industry

Thomas Nerbonne, Regional Representative – Upper Tanana Valley

Jim Sackett, Regional Representative – Lower Tanana Valley

Alaska State Forests

About two percent of state land in Alaska is in three designated state forests. In 1982, the Alaska Legislature established the 286,208-acre Haines State Forest in south-east Alaska. The following year, the legislature created the 1.78 million-acre Tanana Valley State Forest in the Interior. Legislative action in 2010 and 2011 established the 48,472 acre Southeast State Forest. In addition to the three designated state forests, much of the state's public domain land is available for multiple use, including forest management. DNR manages the state forests for a sustained yield of many resources.

The primary purpose for state forests is the production, use and replenishment of timber while perpetuating personal, commercial and other beneficial uses of resources through multiple use management. State forests provide fish and wildlife habitat, clean water, minerals, and opportunities for recreation and tourism. The main difference between state forests and other areas set aside by the legislature is that state forests provide timber harvesting for commercial and personal use (AS 41.17.200) while allowing other beneficial uses in the forests. A DNR management plan guides the use of each state forest. Plan guidelines determine how to manage different uses to complement each other while minimizing the possibility of conflict.

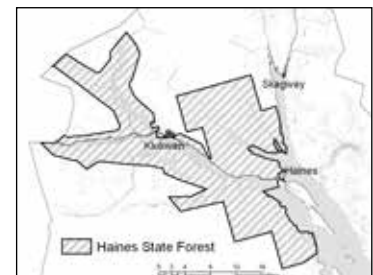
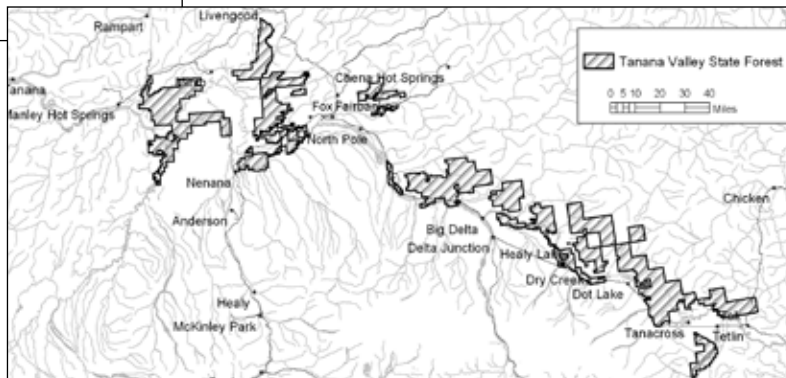
Haines State Forest

The abutments on the Porcupine Creek Bridge were rebuilt and an 80-foot modular steel bridge was installed replacing a 60-foot bridge. This gives the stream an additional 20 feet of clearance. The 80-foot bridge was transported from Icy Bay to Haines when the road system there was closed out. The removed 60-foot bridge is being stored for use somewhere else on the forest.

Tanana Valley State Forest

The Tanana Valley State Forest's 1.8 million acres lie almost entirely within the Tanana River Basin located in the east-central part of the Alaskan interior. The forest extends 265 miles, from near the Canadian border to Manley Hot Springs. It varies in elevation from 275 feet along the Tanana River to over 5,000 feet in the Alaska Range. The Tanana River flows for 200 miles through the forest. Almost 90 per cent of the state forest (1.59 million acres) is forested, mostly with paper birch, quaking aspen, balsam poplar, black spruce, white spruce, and tamarack. About half of the Tanana Basin's productive forest land (1.1 million acres) is located within the state forest. About 85 percent of the forest is within 20 miles of a state highway. A Citizens' Advisory Committee, authorized in the Tanana Valley State Forest Management Plan, serves in an advisory capacity and provides recommendations to the Division of Forestry on forest management issues on these lands and is a conduit of information between the agency and the public.

The forest is open to mining, gravel extraction, oil and gas leasing, and grazing, although very little is done. Timber production is the major commercial activity. The Bonanza Creek Experimental Forest, a 12,400-acre area dedicated to forestry research, is also located within the state forest. The Tanana Valley State Forest offers many recreational opportunities, including hunting, fishing, trapping, camping, hiking, dog mushing, cross-country skiing, wildlife viewing, snow machining, gold panning, boating, and berry picking.



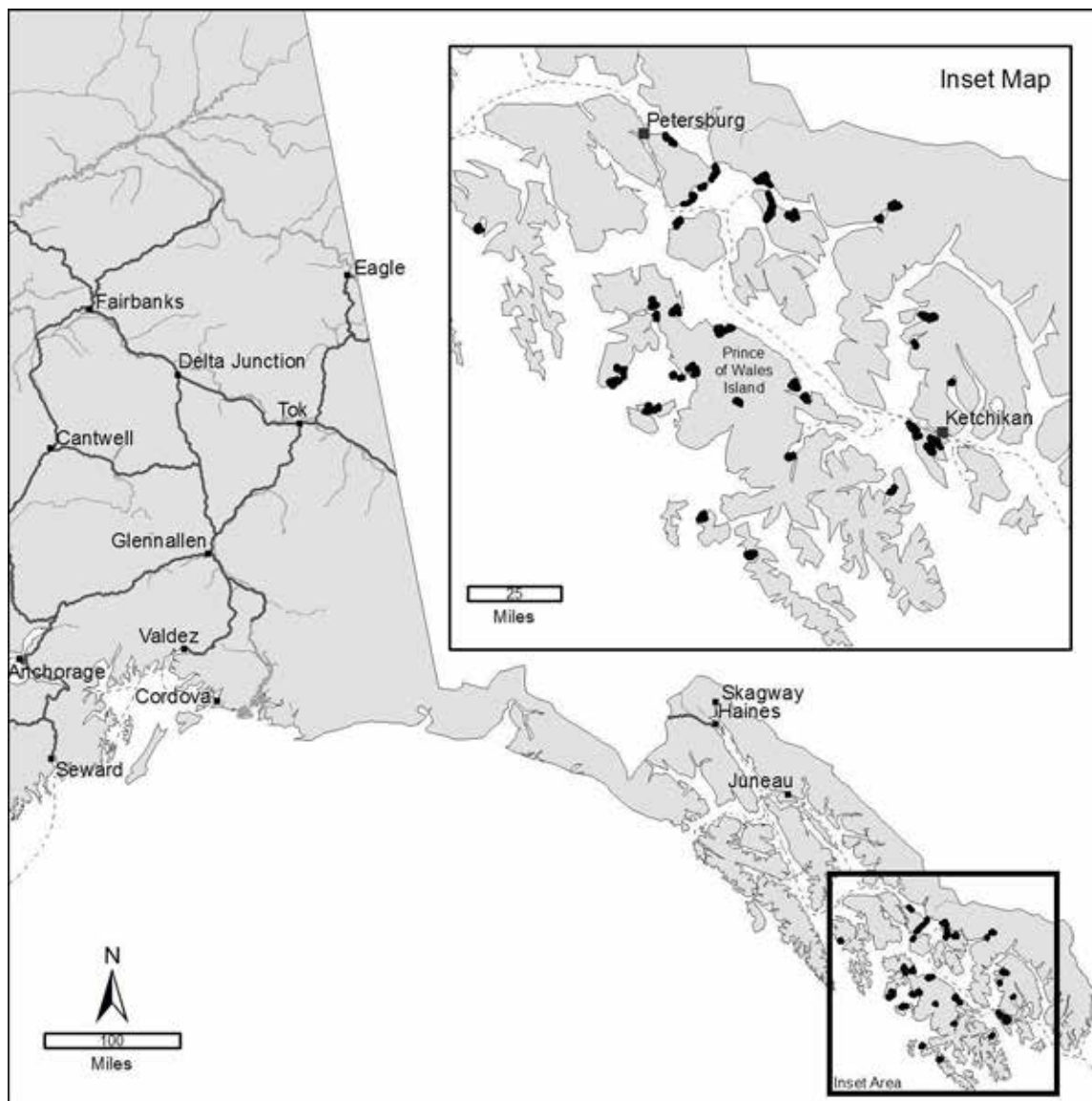
A severe wind event in mid-September knocked down pockets of timber in the Tok and Delta Areas affecting approximately 30,000 acres. The division is evaluating the extent of the event, identifying concerns for insect and disease infestation, assessing the potential for biomass and timber sales which are initially expected to exceed market demand, and developing fire response plans locally.

Southeast State Forest

In 2010, the Legislature created the Southeast State Forest in southern southeast Alaska. This was the State's third state forest and included 25,291 acres of land in 20 parcels on the mainland and the islands of Prince of Wales, Gravina, Hecata, Kosciusko, Revillagigedo, and Tuxekan. In 2011, the Legislature added an additional 23,181 acres to the State Forest. The additional parcels are located on Prince of Wales, Kosciusko, Tuxekan, Suemez, Dall, Revillagigedo, Mitkof, Kuiu, Zarembo, and Wrangell Islands. The lands were previously designated as General Use, which allowed for forestry activities but were susceptible to change of management intent or transfer to other ownership, both of which inhibited long term forest management. By inclusion into the Southeast State Forest, the lands can now be actively managed for long term forest productivity. The Division is in the process of preparing a Forest Management Plan, until that plan is adopted the applicable area plan guidelines will be followed.

About two percent of state land in Alaska is in three designated state forests.

In addition to the three designated state forests, much of the state's public domain land is available for multiple use, including forest management. DNR manages the state forests for a sustained yield of many resources.



Forest Health Protection Program

DOF's cooperative forest health survey program with the U.S. Forest Service – Forest Health Protection (USFS-FHP) staff continues to be a key component in the forest health protection strategy in Alaska, and includes both aerial and ground survey components. Aerial detection surveys in the state take place across all ownerships and cover about 25-35% of the approximately 127 million forested acres in the state in a given year. Aerial detection mapping is an indispensable tool in documenting the location and extent of many active forest insect infestations and some disease damage. The damage numbers recorded from the annual aerial detection surveys offer only a snapshot of statewide conditions and generally do not represent the acres affected by pathogens, many of which are not visible by aerial survey.

Though DOF forest health personnel are involved in all facets of forest health in the state, focus is directed towards forest insects and aerial detection surveys. As such, forest insect updates and aerial detection survey data are highlighted in this report. Additional forest insect information as well as detailed information pertaining to surveys and monitoring efforts for tree diseases and invasive plants is included in the annual Forest Health Conditions in Alaska report published by the U.S. Forest Service, Forest Health Protection staff in collaboration with the Division of Forestry and other key cooperators. Alaska's Forest Health

Protection staff also continually work alongside many agency partners on invasive plant issues, including roadside and high-impact area surveys, public awareness campaigns, and general education efforts.

New Personnel

In 2013, the DOF Forest Health Protection Program faced a changing of the guard. Roger Burnside, DOF Entomologist, retired after 32 years with Alaska DNR. His DNR stint included 22 years with the Division's Forest Health program and in late 2013, Jason Moan joined the Division as the new DOF Entomologist. Prior to joining the Division of Forestry, Jason spent close to eight years with the North Carolina Forest Service, most recently as their Forest Health Monitoring Coordinator.

Surveys Overview

In 2013, Forest Health Protection staff with both the DOF and the U.S. Forest Service – FHP Program collectively mapped 879,000 acres of forest damage on the 31.5 million acres surveyed (Table 1). The acreage of damage observed is 42% higher than in 2012 and includes damage from insects, diseases, declines, and abiotic agents. Much of the increase can be attributed to changes in spruce, alder, and birch defoliation, which increased by over 367,000 acres in 2013. In spite of a late and wet spring, warm and dry conditions throughout much of the state during June and July contributed to the increase in defoliator activity. The following information is summarized from the annual aerial detection survey data.



Roger Burnside sampling spruce for bark beetles in Tok. Photo: Mark Schultz, FMT entomologist.



Jason Moan sampling for laurel wilt disease in North Carolina. Photo: Kelly Oten, North Carolina Forest Service.

Insect Updates

Insect damage in 2013 exceeded that mapped in 2012 for alder and birch. In 2013, external feeding damage in hardwoods and shrubs increased by 256,000 acres. The birch leaf roller, which was mapped on 331,000 acres in 2013, was a major contributor to this damage. Aerially-detected defoliation of aspen, cottonwood, and willow was lower in 2013 than in 2012. Aspen leaf miner activity increased from 2012, but was still lower than 2010 levels; aspen leaf miner has previously been the top pest in term of acres damaged. Spruce defoliation was down by 50% in 2013, though nearly 122,000 acres of western black-headed budworm was mapped in and around the Wood-Tikchik State Park in southwestern Alaska. Hemlock sawfly defoliation more than doubled in 2013, though timing of surveys in relation to the visibility of hemlock sawfly damage was a factor in 2012.

More detailed information on the major insect pests/pest groups was summarized from federal and state staff contributions to the report "Forest Health Conditions in Alaska-2013" and is presented below. The insect activity noted below was primarily documented during the annual aerial detection surveys, with some ground survey data included as well.

Bark Beetles

Spruce beetle: Spruce beetle continues to be the leading mortality-causing pest of spruce in Southcentral, Southwest, and Southeast Alaska. Spruce beetle activity was observed on 27,000 acres in 2013. This is a 227% increase over 2012, though 2012 had the lowest spruce beetle-caused mortality recorded since the early 1970's when the systematic aerial surveys began.

- Areas of increasing activity – Haines area, Katmai National Park, Lake Clark National Park, Chickaloon Bay, Skwentna/Puntilla Lake
- Areas of static activity – Kupreanof Island
- Areas of declining activity – West side of Cook Inlet, Bird Valley within Chugach State Park

Northern spruce engraver (NSE): NSE activity was mapped on about 8,050 acres in 2013, including roughly 300 acres containing both NSE and spruce beetle. These numbers represent only a slight increase over the 7,200 acres mapped in 2012. A separate essay, excerpted from the Forest Health Conditions in Alaska-2013 report, on NSE activity in response to a recent Interior wind event is included at the end of the Insect Updates section.

- General area of activity – Along major river systems in the northeastern and central Interior
- Areas of large outbreaks – Koyukuk River near Roundabout Mountain southwest of Huslia, Chandalar River and Beaver Creek near Fort Yukon.
- Areas of small outbreaks – Along the Tanana, Yukon, Noatak, and John Rivers

Defoliating Insects

Birch leaf rollers: Birch leaf rollers affect both birch and alder and were mapped on 331,000 acres of birch in 2013. They have been a recurring issue in Southcentral and Interior Alaska, accounting for about one-third of all mapped insect and disease damage in 2013.

- Areas of intense activity – Holy Cross, Russian Mission, Lake Clark
- Areas of moderate activity – Anchorage Bowl and Matanuska-Susitna Valley

The following information was summarized (or excerpted, where noted) from "Forest Health Conditions in Alaska-2013" which was published in early 2014.

Questions pertaining to overall coordination of DOF's Statewide Forest Health programs and activities on state and private lands should first be directed to:

State of Alaska
Dept. of Natural Resources
Div. of Forestry, State Office
550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1450
Anchorage, AK 99501-3566
tel: (907) 269-8463
fax: (907) 269-8931

2013 FOREST INSECT AND DISEASE ACTIVITY

Forest insect and disease activity detected during aerial surveys in Alaska in 2012 by land ownership¹ and agent.
All values are in acres².

Agent	TOTAL ACRES	National	Native	Other Federal	State & Private
FOREST DISEASES					
Alder dieback ⁵	26,489	2,473	6,130	4,547	13,339
Western gall rust on pine	4,831	97	128	1,868	2,739
Spruce broom rust	904	0	0	662	242
Spruce needle cast	47	35	0	0	12
DEFOLIATORS, MINERS, AND APHIDS					
Birch leaf roller	331,029	260	110,261	154,873	65,635
Alder defoliation ⁴	132,905	4,412	32,804	16,275	79,414
Black-headed budworm	121,889	44	41,865	807	79,173
Aspen leaf miner	99,592	0	27,893	41,794	29,904
Willow defoliation ⁴	22,351	364	4,392	6,113	11,482
Cottonwood defoliation ⁴	19,582	0	7,315	7,098	5,169
Spear-marked black moth	17,207	0	11,549	89	5,569
Hemlock sawfly	13,329	10,146	295	827	2,062
Spruce budworm	6,434	0	5,122	787	525
Birch defoliation ⁶	6,357	132	3,390	1,435	1,400
Willow leafblotch miner	5,880	0	1,839	1,950	2,091
Conifer defoliation	4,750	1,866	19	2,115	750
Large aspen tortrix	3,283	0	682	1,547	1,054
Hardwood defoliation	2,811	183	75	686	1,867
Dwarf birch defoliation ⁶	601	0	0	0	601
Birch aphid	297	0	0	67	230
Alder sawfly	179	129	50	0	0
Spruce needle aphid	158	0	0	0	158
Cottonwood leaf beetle	117	10	0	92	15
INSECT MORTALITY					
Spruce beetle	27,031	2,137	23	19,752	5,119
Northern spruce engraver beetle	7,741	0	2,527	2,640	2,574
Spruce engraver and spruce beetle ⁸	312	0	13	0	299
ABIOTIC AND ANIMAL MORTALITY³					
Cedar decline ⁷	13,353	12,692	99	72	491
Flooding/high-water damage	5,407	410	777	2,190	2,030
Windthrow/Blowdown	3,412	453	1,149	0	1,810
Porcupine damage	488	339	0	49	99
ACREAGE TOTALS²:	878,765	36,183	258,396	268,334	315,851

1 Ownership derived from the 2008 version of Land Status GIS coverage, State of Alaska, DNR/Land records Information Section. State & private lands include: state patented, tentatively approved, or other state-acquired lands, and patented disposed federal lands, municipal lands, or other private parcels.

2 Acre values are only relative to survey transects and do not represent the total possible area affected. Table entries do not include many of the most destructive diseases (e.g., wood decays and dwarf mistletoe), which are not readily detectable in aerial surveys.

3 Mapped abiotic damage can include windthrow, snow loading, freezing injury, flooding, snow slides, and landslides.

4 Significant contributors include alder sawflies, internal leaf miners, and leaf rollers for the respective host.

5 Alder dieback is the new description used to label alder stem mortality mapped during the survey. Past reports have referred to it as alder canker, but verification of alder canker requires ground-checks and dieback symptoms are the damage signature observed from the air.

6 Defoliation of birch trees and dwarf birch has been reported separately. "Dwarf birch defoliation" primarily represents defoliation of dwarf birch, but also includes defoliation of Labrador tea, small willows, Spiraea and other woody shrubs, and is attributable to several external leaf-feeding insects. In contrast, birch tree defoliation is caused by a combination of internal and external leaf-feeding insects.

7 Acres represent only areas with actively dying yellow-cedars. More than 400,000 acres of cedar decline have been mapped over the years in Southeast Alaska.

8 Acres on which northern spruce engraver and spruce bark beetle activity occurred in the same stands.



*Logging operation on Kodiak Island.
Photo: Jim Schwarber.*



Salvage harvesting from 2012 windstorm. Note leaning trees damaged.

Alder defoliation: Alder defoliation is caused by various leaf-feeding insects. Alder defoliation was observed on more than 133,000 acres during aerial detection surveys in 2013, more than double the amount of alder defoliation mapped in 2012.

- Areas of heavy defoliation - West coast of Cook Inlet

Aspen leaf miner: In general, aspen leaf miner activity has been steadily since 2007, however, the 99,500 acres mapped in 2013 is slightly higher than the damage mapped in 2012. This common pest primarily attacks aspen, but can also be found on other poplar species.

- General area of heavy infestation - Brooks Range to Alaska Range, north to south and the Tanana drainage and Yukon-Charley Rivers Preserve to Ruby, east to west
- Areas of severe damage - Fairbanks, Delta Junction, and Tok

Birch leaf miners: Birch leaf mining damage includes damage from the amber-marked birch leaf miner (AMBLM), the late birch edge leaf miner, and the birch leaf miner. These pests attack both native and ornamental birches and have primarily been reported in urban areas in the state.

- Areas of significant activity - Fairbanks, North Pole, Salcha, and Fort Wainwright and Eielson AFB
- Other areas of activity - Anchorage, Haines, Skagway, Kenai Peninsula

Northern Spruce Engraver Beetle Response to a Recent Windstorm in Interior Alaska

In Interior Alaska, wildfire, seasonal flooding, and river-bank erosion are common forms of disturbance. Weakened trees on the perimeter of wildfires and along eroded and flooded stream beds provide a ready source of breeding material for the northern spruce engraver (*Ips perturbatus*, NSE). Although large-scale NSE outbreaks have occurred in response to these disturbances, disturbance-related activity is generally confined to small pockets. However, under the right circumstances it can extend for many miles and persist for a number of years.

While wind has not been considered a major disturbance factor in Interior Alaska, this trend may be changing with climate. As reported in last year's U.S. Forest Service - Forest Health Protection (FHP) Conditions Report, a series of severe wind events that occurred in mid-September 2012 along the upper Tanana Valley resulted in a 70-mile-long swath of stem breakage, blowdown and tipped spruce and hardwoods over the region. It is estimated that 1.2 to 1.4 million forested acres were damaged across the wind-impacted area.

A low-level helicopter assessment conducted by Alaska Division of Forestry (DOF) foresters in late September 2012, with a subsequent fixed-wing mapping effort in July 2013 and DOF satellite imagery interpretation, estimated about 33,000 acres of lightly to severely damaged spruce/hardwood forest was accessible and near communities along the road system. This presents an opportunity to implement spruce salvage, hazardous fire/fuels reduction, as well as bark beetle mitigation management activities (See wind damage map below for an overview of the surveyed damage). These storms are expected to cause an increase in NSE brood material during the next few years, thereby increasing the chance of a future outbreak.

A small network of sites was established to provide background information and to establish a baseline for future monitoring of potential tree damage and mortality from NSE following the unusually severe September 2012 windstorm. On June 3rd, 2013, Lindgren funnel traps were deployed between the villages of Tanacross and Dry Creek, along the Alaska Highway. Traps were set in five locations, with three traps at each location. Monitor trapping began a couple of miles west of Tanacross, and locations were spaced 8 – 10 miles apart. Each trap was baited with 3-component NSE lures (Alpha Scents, Oregon, USA) and a piece of solid state insecticide to prevent predators from eating trapped beetles (Revenge, DOW Chemical, Michigan, USA). Traps were checked on June 18th, July 2nd, and July 25th, 2013. Results from the 2013 NSE monitoring effort indicate that current NSE population levels are mostly typical of beetle populations found in areas with light anthropogenic (human-caused) and natural spruce forest disturbance. A portion of the wind-damaged area near Tok, however, may contain NSE populations slightly elevated above what is typically found in the spruce forest.

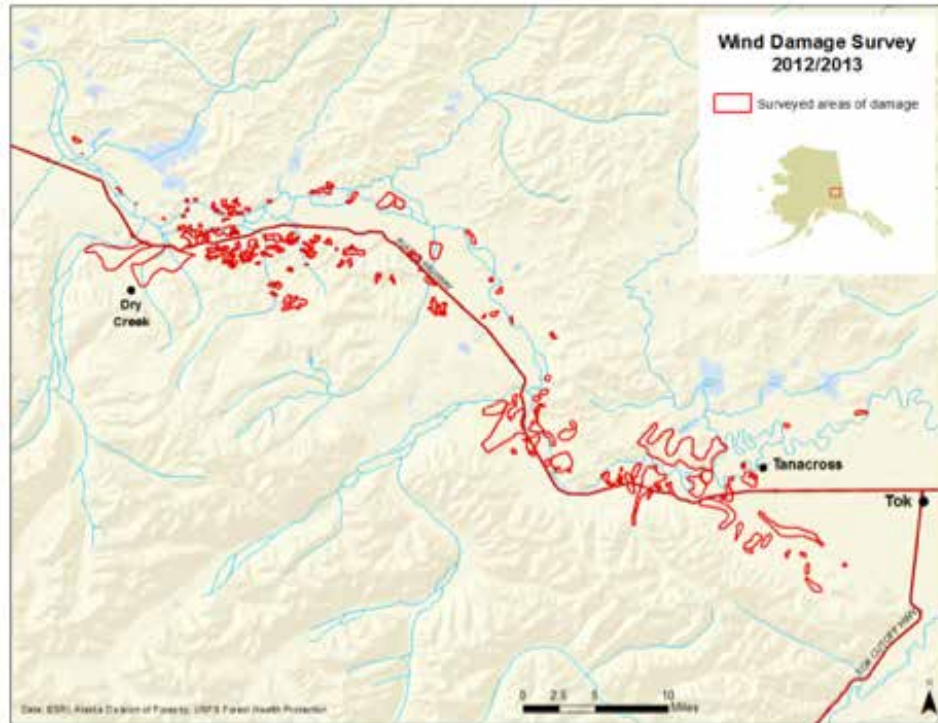
In addition to the aerial survey mapping and monitoring trapping, spot ground checks were made in a few of the heaviest wind-impacted sites along the road system between Delta Junction and Tok during the peak NSE beetle flight (June and July), and again in mid-October after the main beetle flights had occurred. This additional ground survey work was done specifically to assess if the NSE had yet utilized any spruce trees downed or damaged by the September 2012 storms. It was determined that most of the downed or damaged spruce were not attacked or were lightly attacked by the NSE during the 2013 flight season. Much of the downed or damaged (partially down or tipped) spruce still retained adequate bark moisture as evidenced by portions of limbs with green foliage and healthy cambium (inner bark). NSE exit holes were light and often

absent in spruce that still retained live branches. This initial assessment suggests that NSE utilization of the wind-damaged spruce material is currently at or slightly above levels of natural, endemic populations in the affected forests. Future assessments and monitoring of NSE populations within the blowdown areas will include sampling through semio-chemical attractant monitoring and observation of NSE utilization of spruce habitat in the wind-damaged forest.

The recent wind events in Interior Alaska have presented a unique and challenging opportunity to document success or failure of beetle attacks in residual damaged trees; and to assess the efficacy of mitigation activities. Weather plays an important role in beetle population dynamics following a disturbance. Both the NSE and the spruce beetle respond favorably to warm, dry weather, particularly in the spring, when their mass dispersal and attack flights occur. Cool, wet weather can either prevent this flight altogether, or allow it to proceed at such a slow pace that mass attacks are not possible. It's very likely that the unusually cool and wet spring of 2013 may have prevented a mass flight of NSE beetles to damaged spruce trees and slash from the September 2012 windstorm.

Continued monitoring of Interior Alaska wind-damaged areas can provide good baseline information to assist with future bark beetle population assessments and mitigation efforts during timber harvest and beetle suppression activities. Only time will tell if the September 2012 storms will precipitate future large NSE beetle outbreaks, but it's important that ongoing monitoring and assessments occur to facilitate better decision-making to mitigate beetle populations when local climatic conditions favor a shift of above endemic levels.

Surveys estimated 33,000 acres of lightly to severely damaged spruce/hardwood forest was accessible and near communities along the road system. This presents an opportunity to implement spruce salvage, hazardous fire/fuels reduction, as well as bark beetle mitigation management.



Areas of wind-damaged forest identified near the Alaska highway via aerial surveys and satellite imagery interpretation.

Forest Stewardship Program

The purpose of the Forest Stewardship Program is to provide private landowners with information for making decisions about forest resources. At the request of landowners, Division staff prepares Forest Stewardship plans which include field reconnaissance and the best available forest resources information. Alaska Native Corporations are provided grants for resource professionals to prepare Forest Stewardship plans. Limited financial assistance is available for implementation of projects consistent with Forest Stewardship plans and best management practices. The Forest Stewardship Program is a federally funded program administered by the Division of Forestry.

2013 Highlights

- Three Alaska Native Corporations were awarded grants to begin Forest Stewardship plans, and one Alaska Native Corporation completed a Forest Stewardship Plan for their land.
- Forest Stewardship plans were prepared for and signed by 23 individual Alaska forest landowners.
- Wildfire fuel reduction projects were completed by 46 Alaska homeowners.
- USFS competitive grant for riparian forests completed a season of field measurements and data analysis.
- Reforestation improvement work focused on establishment of balsam poplar by cuttings, thereby furthering biomass energy development.

Planning by Alaska Native Corporations

Native corporations and reservations are the largest private landowners in Alaska, and providing grants to Alaska Native Corporations for forest planning is an important part of the Forest Stewardship Program. In 2013, Forest Stewardship Plans were completed for one ANCSA Corporation: Gana-A' Yoo Corporation of Galena covering 395,828 forested acres. Developing wood energy was the main objective of this plan. Forest Stewardship planning grants were awarded to Toghothle Corporation, Tyonek Native Corporation, and Tatitlek Corporation during this period. Aggregate amounts for new planning grants were \$100,830 and 439,921 acres. Four additional ANCSA Corporation plans are in progress. Wood energy, stand improvement, forest road maintenance, cultural sites, and wildlife habitat were important elements of the plans. Since the program began in 1992, a total of 45 Forest Stewardship plans were prepared and signed by ANCSA Corporations.

Planning by Individual Landowners

For private lands in individual ownership, plans were prepared and signed by 23 landowners covering 898 forested acres. Since the program began in 1992, a total of 824 plans have been prepared and signed covering 45,084 forested acres. Participation is greatest on the Kenai Peninsula with the Matanuska-Sustina Borough and Tanana Valley also having many participants. Private landowner assistance on the Kenai Peninsula has been aided by funding from the Kenai Peninsula Borough Spruce Beetle Program. Many participating landowners have strong interest in aesthetics and wildlife. Defensible space from wildfire is a growing concern.

Cost-Share Assistance

Forest Stewardship Program personnel continued to implement components of the National Fire Plan (NFP). Cost-share funding for practices has come from Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) fuels reduction grants from the Western States Fire Managers, and also the Kenai Peninsula Borough. Accomplishments reported here are home inspections, written defensible space plans, and cost-share grant agreements. Acres treated for fuels reduction are reported elsewhere as NFP accomplishments. In 2013, Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) pass-through grants for fuels reduction were approved to begin for 19 landowners. Final inspections were performed for 46 landowners paying \$90,410. WUI grants are an important outreach method for Forest Stewardship.



Stewardship Forester Jim Smith and Ginger Leigh standing by Alaska's new record balsam poplar. Photo: Jeff Graham.

Forest Stewardship Plan Monitoring

To comply with federal requirements, monitoring of past Forest Stewardship Plans is conducted. In 2013, Monitoring of past Forest Stewardship Plans was conducted. 23 plans were monitored and 74% judged to be adequately following plan. For aggregate forested acreage, 98% percent were adequately following plan. Most had performed one or more recommended management activities on their property. One Alaska Native Corporation plan, Leisnoi Inc. was monitored and found to following the Forest Stewardship Plan. For Leisnoi Inc., substantial tree planting had been completed utilizing the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

Competitive Grant Projects

In 2011, the Forest Stewardship program received two competitive grants from US Forest Service. The grant titled Riparian Management Evaluation in Coastal Working Forests has Sealaska Corporation as principle partner and Dr. Doug Martin as principle investigator. The project was begun in 1992 and evaluates salmon stream conditions before and after timber harvest with stream buffers as required by the Forest Resources and Practices Act. The competitive grant will add to the field measurements and prepare a comprehensive report of findings. The grant titled Program Development for Training Rural Forest Technicians will help train personnel in rural communities that work to supply biomass to wood energy systems. The initial target community is Fort Yukon but other communities are also sought. The training program is expected as the wood energy facility nears operation.

Regeneration, Nurseries, and Genetic Resources

Regeneration, Nurseries, and Genetic Resources (RNGR) funding is provided by the US Forest Service as part of the Forest Stewardship Program. RNGR enables progress in reforestation and related issues. In 2013 efforts continued to develop low cost regeneration methods for wood energy biomass. RNGR funding provided matching funding to receive a grant from to Alaska Energy Authority to access use of poplar cuttings for reforestation. RNGR also supported re-measuring a 2005 Siberian larch provenance plantation at the Willow experimental Forest.

Additional Accomplishments

Stewardship staff also participated in a variety of public information events offering forestry and landowner assistance information. Events included presentations at Community Wildfire Protection Plan meetings, Firewise workshops, Soil and Water Conservation District meetings, Arbor Day events, Student presentations, and fairs. One noteworthy event was the “Go Wild” native tree seedling dig organized by Judy Reese on the Kenai Peninsula.

Forest Stewardship Committee

The Division of Forestry receives guidance from the Forest Stewardship Committee. The committee is comprised of representatives from a broad range of Alaska private landowner interests. Areas of discussion include grant and cost-share rates, eligibility criteria, and Forest Stewardship plan requirements. The committee met twice in 2013. Important topics of consideration in 2013 were wood energy development and forest planning on private lands including reforestation. Long-time Committee member from Clam Gulch, Doug Blossom, passed away this last year. Another long-time member, Mike Green, moved to Vermont.

2013 FOREST STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Val Barber
University of Alaska, Palmer

Daniel Consenstein
USDA Farm Service Agency, Palmer

Tom Dearlove
Kenai Peninsula Borough, Soldotna

Doug Blossom
American Tree Farm System, Kenai

Clare Doig
Forest Industry Representative,
Anchorage

Jim Durst
Alaska Department of Fish and Game,
Fairbanks

Jeff Graham
Alaska Division of Forestry, Palmer

Mike Green
Landowner representative,
Fairbanks

George Matz
Kachemak Conserv. Society, Homer

Dan Parrent
USDA Forest Service, Anchorage

Will Putman
Tanana Chiefs Conference, Fairbanks

Dorothy Melambianakis
Kachemak Heritage Land Trust,
Homer

Mitch Michaud
USDA Natural Resources
Conservation Service, Kenai

Phil Shephard
Great Land Trust, Anchorage

Alaska Community Forestry Program

Trees growing in communities require care to be healthy, beautiful and safe but they reward this attention with economic, environmental and social benefits. The Division of Forestry helps communities maximize these benefits through effective management.

The program manager and community assistance forester offer technical and educational assistance to local governments, state and federal agencies, tree care professionals and nonprofit organizations. A partnership with the U.S. Forest Service provides federal funds to administer the state's program.

The Alaska Community Forest Council helps set priorities for the program and provides expertise and advice to the division. The 15 members represent the diversity of the state and a broad spectrum of interests and experiences. Members are also valuable partners and leaders in local community forestry efforts.

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

- Community forests provide essential benefits we cannot live without
- A healthy community forest doesn't happen by chance; it 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; good management of one helps the other



University of Alaska Anchorage students planted 750 seedlings in Palmer in September. UAA planted 6,000 seedlings in 2013 to replace trees removed for development on campus. (Glenn Brown)

Community Assistance

Sitka: The CF Program assisted the City & Borough of Sitka to inventory public trees in 2012 and to incorporate the data into the Sitka Urban Forest Management Plan in 2013. The Sitka City Council adopted the plan in August.

The inventory data will help the city make informed decisions about policy, management, and budgetary priorities. It establishes a baseline for measuring change and the results of management strategies over time. The plan includes standards for proper species selection, tree planting and care that will help the city manage its trees cost-effectively. A \$2,000 grant helped Sitka to implement its management plan goal of diversifying species.

The CF Program held classes for the public in April and in June on tree biology; pruning; tree selection, planting and maintenance followed by hands-on training to plant three trees in a city park; tree problem diagnosis led by the Cooperative Extension agent; and a demonstration of tree transplanting using an air spade. Staff also assisted volunteers with maintenance of park and school trees that had been funded by a CF grant.

Soldotna: The CF Program granted a scholarship to City of Soldotna Parks Director Andrew Carmichael to attend the five-day Municipal Forester Institute in Nebraska. He reported that the leadership training was one of the best educational experiences of his career.

Wasilla: CF staff trained three Wasilla Parks employees on tree assessment and inventory procedures and helped one employee prepare for the ISA certified arborist exam, which he passed. The Community Forest Council paid his exam fee and membership in ISA.

Education

The Community Forestry Program provided training for 353 people from 13 communities in 2012: Anchorage, Wasilla, Palmer, Kenai, Seward, Kodiak, Valdez, Ketchikan, Sitka, Juneau, Metlakatla, Trapper Creek, and Fairbanks.

Program staff:

- Taught a class on trees and shrubs for Anchorage Master Gardener's course
- Made presentation on the CF Program to Kenai Peninsula Master Gardeners
- Made a presentation and led a field trip for the Society of American Foresters statewide conference in Anchorage
- Completed first trip to Kodiak by CF Program staff to teach a class for the Kodiak Garden Club attended by 40 people. The garden club funded the travel expenses.

- Provided training on tree assessment and inventory software for the Anchorage Municipal Forester who was hired in February but left the position in October
- Completed *Windstorm Damage to Trees, Anchorage, Alaska September 2012: Observations and Recommendations* and distributed electronically
- Provided technical assistance and information to local governments, state and federal agencies, landscape architects, tree services, utilities and homeowners
- Served on the Fairbanks Green Infrastructure Group, UAA Tree Campus USA Committee and the Anchorage Weed Management Association

The CF Program purchased 10 trees of three species new to Anchorage for trial at UAA and trained students to plant the trees; gave seedlings to Anchorage Parks for reforestation and to Cub Scouts for planting at a Seward campground. CF staff and UAA students and staff planted 740 birch and spruce seedlings as part of UAA's no-net-loss of trees policy. UAA planted 6,000 seedlings in 2013 to replace trees lost to development on campus. The CF Program donated 23 urban forestry and arboriculture reference books to eight public libraries throughout the state.

Urban & Community Forestry recognized by American Society of Landscape Architects

This unprecedented award, from a non-forestry professional organization was a tremendous honor to Patricia's leadership and dedication and to Stephen's commitment and enthusiasm in community improvement. The Alaska Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects awarded the "GreenBelt" award to the Urban & Community Forestry Program and honored Patricia Joyner and Stephen Nickel at a reception in the BP Energy Center. The 'GreenBelt' award recognizes individuals or organizations that are non-landscape architectural professionals that have supported the mission statement of the Alaska Chapter ASLA:

"To lead, educate, and participate in the careful stewardship, wise planning, and artful design of our cultural and natural environments. The Alaska Chapter advances this mission by supporting the knowledge and practice of landscape architecture as a means to protect and enhance our natural and built environments in Alaska. The Chapter promotes the landscape architectural profession through advocacy, education, communication, and fellowship."



National ASLA President Tom Tavella presenting award to Patricia Joyner and Stephen Nickel.

2013 ALASKA COMMUNITY FOREST COUNCIL

Maria D'Agostino, Anchorage

Monique Anderson, Sitka

Laura Charlton, vice chair, Ketchikan

Sandra Garley, Palmer

Gino Graziano, Anchorage

Brent Hove, Anchorage

Hans Klausner, treasurer, Kodiak

Pat Leary, Anchorage

Nathan Lojewski, Anchorage

Kenneth Marsh, Trapper Creek

Nan Mundy, Juneau

Lisa Moore, chair, Sitka

Dan Rees, Fairbanks

Laura Robertson, Valdez

Isobel Roy, secretary, Anchorage

Online Classes

The CF programs of Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington partnered to invest a US Forest Service grant in offering a series of webinars, including six in Alaska:

- Selecting and Planting High Quality Trees, offered twice
- Pruning Young Trees for Strong Structure, offered twice
- Preparing for the ISA Certified Arborist exam
- What did we learn from the September 2012 Windstorm

A total of 46 people from across the state plus two from Oregon and one from Idaho attended the webinars. Most participants are public employees who do not have access to this type of training locally. Webinars provide a means to train those in areas where the small audience would not justify the high costs of travel.

In addition, 15 Alaskans attended Understanding Tree Risk: A Webinar for Municipal Officials sponsored by Oregon and Idaho. A new page on the Alaska Community Forestry website has links to online courses offered by the four states plus Oregon State University and the Pacific Northwest ISA e-learning site. All webinars are archived and available.

Arbor Day

The CF Program distributed a calendar of Arbor Day activities statewide. Unseasonably cold weather in May and frozen soil in many locations limited the number of activities in 2013. The CF Program purchased an Arbor Day Tree for Kodiak Future Farmers of America and a Community Forest Council member to plant at the ferry terminal. This was the first known Arbor Day event in Kodiak for decades.

American Society of Landscape Architects Award

The Alaska Chapter of ASLA presented an award to the Program Manager and Community Assistance Forester for long-term partnership in improving Alaska communities.

ASLA's president was in Alaska to present the awards. Other recipients were former Governor Tony Knowles, the Anchorage Parks Foundation, UAA Landscape Department, and Great Land Trust.

Community Forestry Organizations

In 2013, volunteers donated nearly 500 hours for community forestry projects in Alaska. Citizen groups around the state organized volunteers, raised funds, supported tree planting and care, and offered educational programs. Chugach Electric Association donated \$1,000 to the Community Forest Council for public education. The most active organizations are:

- Alaska Community Forest Council
- Fairbanks Arbor Day Committee
- Juneau Urban Forestry Partnership
- Sitka Tree and Landscape Committee

Tree Cities USA

- City of Wasilla
- Ketchikan Gateway Borough
- Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson
- Eielson Air Force Base
- Fort Wainwright
- City & Borough of Sitka
- Municipality of Anchorage
- City & Borough of Juneau

Tree Lines USA

- Chugach Electric Association
- Golden Valley Electric Association
- Matanuska Electric Association

Tree Campuses USA

- University of Alaska Anchorage
- University of Alaska Fairbanks



Alaska Community Forest Council members visit the trees at the Anchorage Cemetery during the November meeting. (l to r) Lisa Moore, chair, Sitka; Ken Marsh, Trapper Creek; Maria D'Agostino, Anchorage; Laura Charlton, vice-chair, Ketchikan; Stephen Nickel, Community Assistance Forester; Dan Rees, Ft. Wainwright; Monique Anderson, Sitka; Gino Graziano, Anchorage; Nathan Lojewski, Anchorage. (Patricia Joyner)



Chris Maisch with Region 10 and National USFS personnel: Left side: Beth Pendleton, Regional Forester (R10 Alaska); Chris Maisch, State Forester; Jim Hubbard, Deputy Chief USDA Forest Service (Washington, DC) and personnel from the Tongass and Chugach National Forests.



Tree Planting Class in Sitka. (l to r) Alaska Community Forest Council members Lisa Moore and Monique Anderson, contractor Adam McCleod, and Sitka Parks employee Jud Kirkness. (Patricia Joyner)



*Community Forestry Program Manager Patricia Joyner demonstrates proper tree planting to UAA students, who planted 10 trees on campus as a trial of species not common in Anchorage: *Acer pseudosieboldianum* (Korean maple), *Fraxinus americana* Autumn Purple (white ash), and *Quercus rubra* (northern red oak). (Stephen Nickel)*



UAF students and the Fairbanks Arbor Day Committee planted seven trees on campus to celebrate Arbor Day on the Tree Campus USA.



Alan Martin who retired in 2013 shown at 9/11 World Trade Center Type 1 Team assignment.



Chris Maisch going to work in the morning after a wind storm.



Skinny River Fire and Parks Highway. Photo by Matt Jones.



Stuart Creek fire public meeting full house. Ed Sanford, Acting FMO Fairbanks Area, lower left. Photo: Jim Schwarber.

*Below left
Dean Brown in Antarctica.
Photo: Ian Dalziel.*

*Below right
John Winters and Norm on Afognak Island. Photo: Jim Schwarber.*

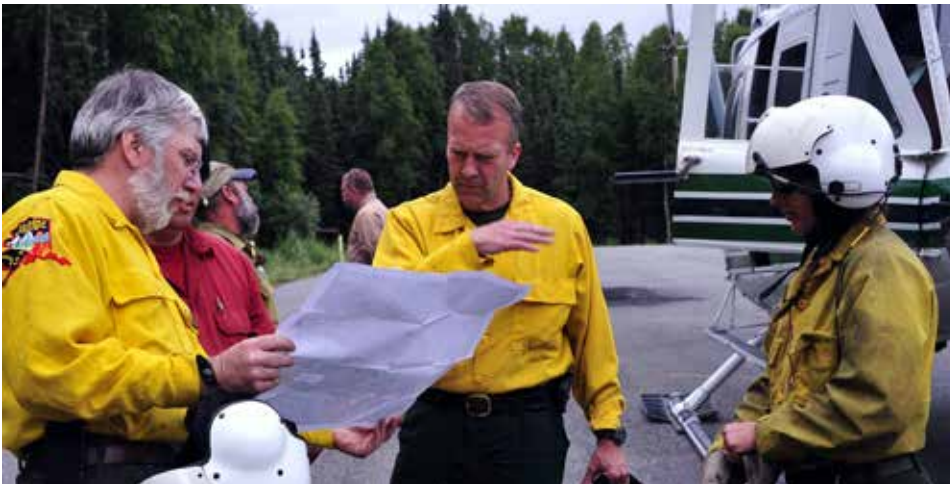




White Mountain Type 21A crew members on the Rim Fire: Christian Blankenship, Superintendent Gilbert Frank and Dave Brown.



Chris Maisch at NASF with Ray Sowers, South Dakota State Forester. Photo by Dean Brown.



State Forester Chris Maisch with Commissioner Dan Sullivan and Chris Stewart on project fires in Fairbanks.

Below: AWFCG Members: Tom Hudson – USFS, Dan Warthin – NPS, Kent Slaughter – AFS, Doug Alexander – USFWS, Mike Burley- AVCP, Dean Brown – DOF, Karin Landsberg- DEC, Sue Rodman – F&G, Charlie Sink – Chugachmiut, Clinton Northway – TCC, Ray Hart – BIA. Photo: Jim Schwarber.



WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT

2013 Fire Season

The 2013 wildland fire season had a prolonged initiation. Typically, activity can begin in early April, but the weather that is conducive to fire behavior did not occur until very late in May. An extremely cold spring and some of the latest snowfalls on record had fire managers thinking that fire season would never really arrive. Snowmelt dates were some of the latest ever observed and the interior set cold temperature records on May 20th. The most remarkable fact about May's precipitation was that most fell as snow, with much of the state getting at least a dusting of snow as late as May 18th. Combined with the cold temperatures, the snowpack lingered, and many stations had one of their top three latest snowpack years. With the deeper snowpack and persistent cold, ice jams created significant flooding along the Yukon River at Eagle, Circle, Ft. Yukon, and was the worst at Galena, where virtually the entire community was flooded right after Memorial Day Weekend. The Division of Forestry assisted the Division of Homeland Security in responding to the floods, primarily in Galena, with logistical and overhead support.

Eventually, summer finally arrived, and Fairbanks reported record highs just 10 days later. It was not long before fire season began as by June 3rd there were 40 active fires with 33 in the Alaska Division of Forestry's response area. Hot and dry conditions were setting the stage for wildland fire conditions and fire size was being contained to under 10 acres during initial attack.

The Old Valdez Trail Fire was the first fire of significance for the State. It was highly visible from the well-travelled Richardson Highway and ran directly up a steep hillside towards improvements and homes. The fire was contained at 40 acres just short of several residences located at the crest of the ridge.

On June 17th, the Kanuti Fire started at 5:30 pm on Mile 17 Chena Hot Springs Road. The fire was well visible to residents of Fairbanks, especially to those travelling to their homes at the end of the work day. Traffic was stopped while fire fighters were engaged in stopping the fast moving fire through homes and buildings along the road. It was not until after 9:00 pm that firefighters and aircraft had made enough progress to knock down the fire at 120 acres. The fire was determined to be started spontaneously by decomposing mulch in the sunny and hot conditions dominating the interior weather pattern.

A large lightning caused fire in the McGrath area, 12 miles north of Lime Village in a limited management option grew



to over 12,000 acres during this period. Suppression forces worked on building lines around the improvements along Swift River and Lime Village.

One June 19, the Alaska Interagency Coordination Center Predictive Services issued a Fuels and Fire Behavior Advisory for all of Alaska, excluding the coastal areas and panhandle. Record heat and dry fuels for much of Alaska produced record-setting fire spread potential and rapidly rising resistance to suppression efforts across boreal spruce and tussock tundra fuels.

On June 21st, a large area of storms with dry lightning ignited numerous small fires that were limited in size due to aggressive initial attack. There were 4300 lightning strikes on June 21st, by far the most to date during the 2013 season. Alaska added additional air tankers (including water scooping, and retardant), smokejumpers, helicopters (including the Canadian "Rappattack heli-rappellers" crew), and overhead to its existing firefighting forces. A task force of engines was also assembled and included U.S. Forest Service, Division of Forestry, and cooperator engines.

June 24th brought Canadian and State of Alaska fire managers together to manage the Chisana River Fire. The fire was located near the international boundary in the Tetlin Wildlife Refuge. Also, the Division of Forestry monitored two wildfires visible from the communities of Dot Lake and Chicken. The Billy Creek Fire was 15 miles northeast of Dot Lake and visible from the Alaska Highway. The Denison Fork Fire was approximately seven miles southeast of Chicken.

The Skinny's Road Fire started in late June and was west of Fairbanks in an active logging area. It was located in steep terrain, heavy fuels, and adjacent to the Parks Highway. It presented significant challenges to local fire fighters and, with increasing initial attack activity, led to the the calling

of a Type 2 team from the state of Oregon. Also, the Alaska Fire Service was engaged in the managing of the Stuart Creek Fire, imbedded within the Fairbanks Protection Area. Tok began managing the Moon Lake and Tetlin Junction Fires, both large fires within the Tok Protection Area.

Heat waves in the Interior brought 80 degree temperatures, some nearing 90F, at several locations. And Anchorage hit 81F on June 18th, not only a record for the day, but their first 80F plus day since 2009. Precipitation was very low around the state, as much of the usual diurnal shower activity due to convection and instability did not occur with the stable and dry air mass.

A cool July 4th brought record lows to parts of the Interior where temperatures dropped into the 30s overnight. Then it quickly got hot again. More long-term records were broken. Anchorage broke the 2004 record (13 days) of most consecutive days of 70F and higher on 15 consecutive days that month (July 17th – 31st). Fairbanks broke the 2004 record (30 days) of most days over 80F with 36 days, and also broke the 1987 record (10 days) of most days over 85F with 14 days.

The Stuart Creek Fire, started by live ordnance on military training grounds, was proving to be a troublesome fire with implications to the State's Fairbanks Area. The fire was moving toward populated areas in the Chena Hot Springs Road area where evacuations were ordered. A Type 2 Incident Management Team was ordered on July 1st but was replaced by a Type 1 Team given the size and scope of the incident. Fire size was over 40,000 acres by this time, and with continued activity well into July was 85000 acres with nearly 750 personnel from the Alaska Fire Service, State of Alaska, and cooperating agencies. It was not until well into August that the Stuart Creek Fire would no longer be a threat to residents within the Fairbanks North Star Borough.

The Moon Lake and Tetlin Fires were being managed as a complex along with the Billie Creek and Dennison Fork fires, both in limited within the Tok protection area. Statewide, there were over 100 fires active with nearly one million acres burned by this time. The Copper River Basin, Mat-Su valley, and Kenai Peninsula were also warm and dry. High temperatures on the Kenai Peninsula, with limited relief from precipitation kept initial attack fire fighters moving from fire to fire.

August remained hot, with high temperature records continuing to be broken for the first half of the month: 83F at Petersburg on August 1st, 85F in Fairbanks on August 7th, 92F in Eagle on August 12th. 92F is also the highest temperature recorded in Alaska for August. Fairbanks went 25 days with less than 0.02 inches of rain (July 21st to August 12th).

The Long Creek Fire started August 4th on the north side of the Steese Highway near mile 47. Aerial and ground resources heading to a fire near the Chatanika Lodge diverted to this new wildland fire and helped to keep the fire to 40 acres. There were still 82 active fires by the start of the month.

As the high pressure waned, much of South Central received cooler temperatures and widespread wetting rains, rapidly reducing fuel concerns. And then the rain kept coming; Kodiak had more than twice its normal rainfall, Anchorage had nearly 1.7 times their normal rainfall, and Seward had 10 inches, almost twice normal. Interior locations received some rain, but widespread wetting rains seemed to be elusive.

The Alaskan agency fire crews are singled out for the most difficult and often hazardous assignments. It is normal for a crew to work steadily without support before relief is available, with succeeding shifts of 14-16 hours in arduous terrain and conditions.

It looked as if the 2013 fire season was in rapid descent. Many of the fires were either contained or showed only minor activity. Media and public interest waned. Crews and equipment were being demobilized and resources were in discussion for assignment to the Lower-48. However, by the second week, there was a pattern change afoot. This set up a strong pressure gradient over the Alaska Range, bringing very strong southerly winds to the north side of the mountains, and fanning the Mississippi Fire near Delta Junction. This brought smoke into Fairbanks and other nearby communities as Chinook winds were strong enough to push the fire several miles towards improvements on the Tanana and Richardson-Clearwater areas. The Alaska Type 1 Team was utilized for the management on the fire. This encompassed 68,000 acres.

A fire east of Lake Louise in the Copper River Valley, the Tabert Lake Fire, was estimated at approximately 1,200 acres and utilized a Type 3 organization. This was somewhat of a rare event for the Copper River Area this late in the season. Aerial resources were the primary resources for limiting the growth of the fire.

September started off a bit warmer than normal, but slipped into a cooler pattern for the second half of the month. Overall, temperatures around the state averaged slightly on the cool side, for all but the southern coastal areas. The more important weather factor for September is that it was a wet month, particularly in contrast to the rest of the summer. At least a dozen daily precipitation records were broken. The most notable record may be that rain fell in Anchorage every day from August 27th through September 13th. These 18 consecutive days were the longest streak since September 1919. The first large system brought strong winds to the northern Interior around September 3rd, while South Central closed out the month with another windstorm on the 25th of the month. Whenever the winds picked up through the Alaska Range, the Mississippi Fire responded with a sudden increase in activity, keeping fire suppression officers on their toes, and some smoke still intruding into nearby communities.

In all, the 2013 fire season was notable from the standpoint of duration. The winter was prolonged through May and then just as quickly as winter ended, fire season began. From there, the fire season began and maintained a relentless presence on initial attack, extended attack, and large, complex fires. The season ended with 601 fires, 447 of which were in State Protection. Of the 1,317,700 acres burned, 588,579 of those acres were in State protection. There were very few structures burned (5), no fatalities in Alaska, and limited loss of work days to do work related injuries.

2013 Agency Crews

The individuals who make up the Alaskan agency crews come from all walks of life. They are made up of Alaskans who thrive in a team setting and are willing to work together to complete their mission safely and effectively. The individuals include military veterans who have served on the front lines in Afghanistan and Iraq. There are Iditarod mushers, mountain guides, and outdoorsmen who have thrived and survived in the harshest conditions in the world. They are college students with the goal of eventually working in the natural resource program, and men and women from rural Alaska who are looking to challenge themselves. The one thing all the crew members have in common is the ability to succeed under both physically and mentally demanding conditions. They must be able to take orders and carry those orders out at all times.

The Alaskan agency fire crews are singled out for the most difficult and often hazardous assignments. It is normal for a crew to work steadily without support before relief is available, with succeeding shifts of 14-16 hours in arduous terrain and conditions common. The crews are often spiked out away from the main camp for days on end, eating cold MRE's and drinking warm water. The work is anything but glamorous; it can be dirty, stressful and include breathing smoke for days, contending with mosquitos, devils club, gnats, flies, and bears. While dealing with these conditions, they must also contend with the hazards of the job; carrying heavy packs of up to 70 pounds through tundra and mountainous terrain, felling large trees, constructing trenches through rocky and root bound soils, hauling hose, packing portable pumps, and burning out and holding line before the fire front gets there. When that's completed, the dirty work begins- mop up. This includes digging and extinguishing all hot spots and removing any and all heat sources.

When working around the urban interface which includes homes and subdivisions, the hazards increase. There is the potential of exploding propane and heating oil tanks, burning hazardous materials, downed power lines, panicked domestic animals, and upset home owners, all while maintaining situational awareness. The reward for the individuals on these crews is the pride in being part of a team that protects the public, homes, communities, and the natural resources of Alaska.

The crew overhead on the agency crews is made up of some of the most experienced wildland firefighters in the country. The leadership they provide ensures the safety of every crew member. The individuals who run the Alaskan agency crews have many years of fire experience, hundreds of hours of firefighting training and leadership – the qualities that help build a cohesive and safe firefighting crew.

When not assigned to fires the crews provide the core group that trains and readies many of the village fire crews. They work on fire breaks around communities and thin decadent stands of timber. Partial funding for the Alaskan crews comes in the form of Federal grants. The grants are on a year to year basis and are at the whim of federal budgeting. The funds that were available even a few years ago have decreased dramatically. The Division's top priority has been to secure funding to continue the crew program. Members from these programs have taken their training, experience and work ethic they have gained from the crews to obtain permanent careers with the Division of Forestry and provide the expertise and knowledge needed to continue a successful fire management program.

During the 2013 fire season the crews based out of Palmer responded to 29 fires for a total of 234 days of on the ground firefighting. Twenty-three of the assignments were in Alaska protecting the State's values. Six assignments were in the lower 48 where they were assigned through agreements with the western states, the USFS and the BLM. The crews received outstanding evaluations for their hard work and excellent safety records.

Pioneer Peak IHC & Gannett Glacier Type 2 IA

The State of Alaska has three agency organized crews, Pioneer Peak, Gannett Glacier and White Mountain. Based out of Palmer Alaska, as part of the Mat-Su Area, are Pioneer Peak, a Type 1 Interagency Hotshot Crew and Gannett Glacier, a Type 2 Initial Attack Crew. All of these crews are the backbone of the State of Alaska's wildland firefighting force. These crews can be quickly mobilized to new fire starts. Equipped with their own transportation, chainsaws, hand tools and back firing equipment, the Alaskan agency crews are the primary force in constructing fire line and protecting communities and homes throughout Alaska.

Forestry supports native Corporation crews through agreements with the Tanana Chiefs Conference and Chugachmiut Corporation. Support to the crews consists of providing training, issuing red cards, tracking training and experience records, and assisting with mobilization.



Pioneer Peak Hotshots: Back Row- Left to Right: Matt Jones, Zach Fleming, Bryan Quimby, Russ Spargo, Matthew Hubaud, Daniel Skriloff, Chris Irwin, Thomas Robertson, Barruch Chamberlain, Andy Jones, Kris Baumgartner. Front Row- Left to Right: Casey Bridges, Matthew Lindsay, Jullian Neubauer, Colton Stenger, Pat Buongiorne, TJ Hancock, Laona DeWilde, David Danner, Brent Benson, Lafe Martyn. Photo Credit-Norm McDonald

2013 WILDFIRES BY CAUSE

	ALL FIRES		AFS		STATE		USFS	
	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres
Arson	2	0.4	0	0.0	2	0.4	0	0.0
Campfire	74	304.5	63	303.4	2	0.2	3	0.9
Children	7	2.2	6	2.2	0	0.0	0	0.0
Debris Burning	131	119.2	130	119.1	0	0.0	1	0.1
Equipment	33	3,344.1	33	3344.1	0	0.0	0	0.0
Fireworks	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Incendiary	21	154,515.2	3	0.6	18	154,514.6	0	0.0
Land Clearing	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Lightning	207	1,154,467.3	111	586,427.1	99	572,608.3	0	0.0
Misc/Other	78	1,424.1	78	1,424.1	0	0.0	0	0.0
Natural Out	5	0.3	1	2.0	1	0.3	0	0.0
Powerline	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Railroad	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Smoking	5	15.3	4	0.5	1	14.8	0	0.0
Structure Fire	1	0.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.5
Trash Burn	1	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Under Investigation	1	0.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.1
Undetermined	25.0	37.4	23	36.4	1	1.0	0	0.0
Unknown	21	1,953.8	0	0.0	13	1,951.7	17	2.1
Vehicle	1	0.2	0	0.0	1	0.2	0	0.0
TOTALS	613	1,320,752.7	452	591,657.5	138	729,091.1	23	3.7

**2013 ACRES BURNED BY
LANDOWNER**

All Fires	Fires	Acres
BIA	1	465.3
BLM	41	408,622.8
Borough	10	2.4
FWS	37	108,216.7
Military	30	97,623.2
NPS	27	169,745.6
NCA	73	71,030.1
Private	238	2,298.9
State	147	459,009.4
USFS	9	1.1
TOTALS*	613	1,317,015.5

**Number of fires reflects fires that started on the owner's land. Overall acres burned based on the submitted perimeters; in some cases the perimeter does not match reported acreage, thus the difference of 3737.2 acres.*

2013 ALASKA WILDFIRES BY AREA AND PROTECTION LEVEL**State Wide Totals by Protection Level**

Cause	Fires	Acres
Human	402	161,717.3
Lightning	211	1,159,035.4
TOTALS	613	1,320,752.7

CRITICAL		FULL		MODIFIED		LIMITED		TOTALS	
Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres
299	2,288.2	122	29,719.5	32	60,207.7	160	1,228,537.3	613	1,320,752.7

State Protected Areas

Area	CRITICAL		FULL		MODIFIED		LIMITED		TOTALS	
	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres
Anch/Mat-Su	74	58.7	17	50.6	4	67.9	1	0.1	96	177.3
Copper River	16	2.6	11	35.9	3	0.3	14	7944.1	44	7982.9
Delta	24	7.4	2	1.5	-	-	-	-	26	8.9
Fairbanks	86	2111.7	13	1720.9	-	-	8	1018.1	107	4850.7
Haines	3	0.4	1	0.1	-	-	1	0.1	5	0.6
Kenai/Kodiak	72	16.7	6	35.4	-	-	-	-	78	52.1
Southwest	1	80.0	12	2113.3	13	7180.0	27	443,725.7	53	453,099.0
Tok	10	8.4	16	23,145.9	1	25,500.0	16	76,831.7	43	125,486.0
TOTALS	286	2285.9	78	27,103.6	21	32,748.2	67	529,519.8	452	591,657.5

USDA Forest Service- Protected Areas

Area	CRITICAL		FULL		MODIFIED		LIMITED		TOTALS	
	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres
Chugach N.F.	3	0.7	2	0.8	-	-	1	0.1	6	1.6
Tongass N.F.	2	0.4	8	0.8	2	0.3	5	0.6	17	2.1
TOTALS	5	1.1	10	1.6	2	0.3	6	0.7	23	3.7

BLM Alaska Fire Service -Protected Areas

Area	CRITICAL		FULL		MODIFIED		LIMITED		TOTALS	
	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres
Galena	-	-	1	20.0	6	27,380.1	26	21,234.1	33	48,634.2
Military	6	1	15	7.3	-	-	6	154,759.6	27	154,767.9
Tanana	1	0.1	1	0.1	1	1.3	34	426,784.2	37	426,785.7
Upper Yukon	1	0.1	17	2586.9	2	77.8	21	96,238.9	41	98,903.7
TOTALS	8	1.2	34	2614.3	9	27,459.2	87	699,016.8	138	729,091.5



Gannett Glacier Type 21A Crew in Flat, Alaska. John Messick, Tommy Gerken, John Glen, Brandon Marlow, Brogan Putnam, Izaak Probasco, Arron Lovejoy, Brad Karella, Josh Leutzinger; Matthew Muth, Josh Smith, David Croy, Zack Gilmour, Jered Kemp, David Hansen, Alex Wheeler, Nick Stahler, Adam Biernat

White Mountain Type 21A Crew

- 2013 was White Mountain's 4th year as an organized crew.
- All 5 of the lead overhead have been with the crew since 2010 as Fairbanks Fuels 1.
- 4.7 seasons is the average experience level of a member of White Mountain. The Superintendent Gilbert Frank has 14 years of experience.
- College students make up 40% of our member core, and many are working towards degrees in Fire Science.
- The crew has 1 Emergency Medical Technician Basic; two more members are enrolled in a training program this winter. In addition, 5 qualified Emergency Trauma Technicians are on the crew.
- The Superintendent received his TFLD cert. One STL, FOBS, 4 FALB's, 3 HECM's, and 2 FFT1's received full certification in their respective positions.
- White Mountain spent 86 days on 14 fires in 2013, working approximately 1000 hours of overtime. Thirteen of those fires were in Alaska, with the exception being the Rim fire in California in September.
- The crew responded as a whole to 8 initial attack incidents within the Fairbanks protection area. White Mountain assisted in stopping fire growth on 7 incidents within 2 days. (#388-skinny's was the only exception)
- The crew sent short squads of 4-10 personnel too many small new starts throughout the summer to assist in suppression and mop-up.
- During the very few lulls in IA this summer the crew was able to spend 3 weeks working on various fuels reduction projects throughout the borough.



White Mountain Type 21A Crew: Rim Fire, CA. Left/Top Row: Mark Dallman, Isaac Solomon, Gordon Amundson, Michael Simon, Owen Smith, Jacob Hollander, Toby Viavant, Robin Ace, David Brown, Christian Blankenship, Gilbert Frank. Left/Bottom Row: Zack Jacobson, Garrett Cole, Jedediah Stone, Matt King, Gabe Avila, Kaleb Maniaci, Clayton Cherone, Robert Evans, Shane Ante.

Yukon Type 2 IA Fire Crew: Chugachmiut

Chugachmiut's Yukon Fire Crew started the fire season May, 6 2013. The crew went out on 8-fire assignments in Alaska and 1-assignment in the lower 48 states (Rim Fire in California) for a total of 86 days on assignment with 19 days of project work. The Yukon Crew began with 10 training days and 15 days off for a total of 130 days assembled as a fire crew. The crew ended the 2013 season September 16, 2013, after a busy and successful season. A short squad remained until October 1, 2013, to finish up some projects on the Kenai Peninsula. Soldotna State Division of Forestry is their duty station. The Soldotna area and the Kenai Peninsula are generally where the Yukon Crew conducts project work.

The Yukon Fire Crew is approaching its 9th fire season. The crew was established in 2005 as a Type II Alaska Native Hand Crew with the goal of becoming a highly trained, motivated, and organized wildland fire crew. The crew is mainly Alaskan Native from across the State of Alaska. In 2006 the crew was recognized by the State of Alaska Department of Forestry as a Type 2 Initial Attack crew and has held that status since then. Project work mainly consists of Fire Hazardous Fuel Reduction. The crew has been on many fires throughout its 8-years of existence which include assignments in the states of Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, California, Oregon, Montana, Idaho and Washington.

Chugachmiut has been training fire leaders providing wildland fire crew staff and services since 1998. Chugachmiut's fire program mission is "To provide land management agencies with highly skilled and productive wildland fire resources by providing leadership and striving to produce quality supervisors for the future." Throughout the years, Chugachmiut has been successful in living up to its mission statement and has developed firefighters from rookies to experienced firefighters with the requisite training and work ethic to move on to upper level and elite wildland firefighter positions. For example, former Chugachmiut fire fighters now hold positions as the Alaska Interagency Coordination Center manager and several smoke jumper positions. Several current crew bosses for Alaska fire crews who had worked for and developed on Chugachmiut's Yukon Fire



Chugachmiut Yukon Type 21A Crew: Top (4th row up from bottom) L to R: Jason Tate, Jaylon Lacy, Bernhard Brunner, Ricky Cristo, Jonathan Nick, Kylan Borromeo, Vincent Nickoli, Byron Saunders, James Albert. Middle (3rd row from bottom) L to R: Mitch Nikolai and Brandon Mayo. Middle (2nd row from bottom) L to R: Gustan Green, Kylee Beatus, Zachariah Vent, Darrell Nick, Alan Inlow, and Steve Boatman. Bottom (1st row): Warren Fredson and Dylan David.

EFF Crew Assignments

55 crews were assigned in State and 10 out of State (10 crews went outside).

Type 2 Agency Crew Assignments

Total 46 in-State and 6 out-of-State
North Stars: 10 in-state

Type 2 IA Crew Assignments
Gannett Glacier: 9 in-State and 1 out-of-State

White Mountain: 9 in-State and 1 out-of-State

Tanana Chiefs: 12 in-State and 1 out-of-State

Yukon: 11 in-State and 1 out-of-State

USFS T2IA: 5 in-State and 2 out-of-State

Type 1 "Hotshots" Crew Assignments

Total 37 in-State and 8 out-of-State
Pioneer Peak: 14 in-State and 4 out-of-State

Midnight Suns (AFS): 10 in-State and 2 out-of-State

Chena (AFS): 13 in-State and 2 out-of-State



Tok Fires. Top/Left: Owen Smith, Richard Faria, Dane McFadden, Dan Ristow. Bottom/ Left: Nick Mayer, Sean Crawford, Ted Roach, Toby Viavant, Ben Anderson, Gabe Avila, Jedediah Stone, Benjamin Anderson, Matt King and Christopher Weingarth.

Crew and previously Chugachmiut's Interagency Hotshot Denali Fire Crew, this crew started in 1998 and finished its contracts in 2008 with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, now serve the State of Alaska's Gannet Glacier and White Mountain Type 2 Initial Attack Fire Crews and for Tanana Chiefs Conference's Type 2 Initial Attack Fire Crew. There are many aspiring firefighters from Alaska's rural and urban areas, and Chugachmiut will be here to continue to guide and develop them for careers in and outside of fire management.

TCC Type 1 IA Crew

Through opportunities made available by the Alaska Division of Forestry (DOF), the TCC Fire Crew was established by the Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) in 2010. TCC is a non-profit tribally based organization serving 42 Native communities in Interior Alaska, many of whom are the home of Type 2 EFF crews managed by DOF or BLM/AFS. Members of the TCC Fire Crew are hired by TCC,

with membership comprised largely of Alaska Native Tribal members from the TCC Region. Support of the crew is enabled primarily through cooperative agreements with DOF that make the crew available for wildland fire deployments and fuels projects administered by DOF, with additional support provided over the years by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the National Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the village of Tanacross. The locations of the fuels projects supporting the crew have been centered around Tok in the Upper Tanana region, and as a result the crew is based out of DOF offices in Tok. Initially, the crew was organized as a Type 2 handcrew, but the crew achieved certification as a Type 2 IA crew in 2011.

A primary goal of TCC in building a motivated, trained, organized wildland fire crew is to provide a mechanism for tribal members to acquire the training and experience required to become leaders in their home communities and the Statewide wildland fire community, and to provide opportunities for motivated firefighters to embark on careers in wildland fire. Tanana Chiefs Conference recognizes the importance of wildland firefighting in its region, and will continue to work with our Interagency partners to produce quality firefighters and leaders for the future.

2013 Interagency Crewboss Academy

The Value of Type 2 Crews

Crewbosses are the leaders of fire crews, including Type 2 Emergency Firefighter (EFF) crews, that provide critical firefighting support to Alaska and the Lower-48. A qualified Crewboss is necessary to lead the 19 other crewmembers. In 2012, Alaska mobilized 25 EFF crews instate and 31 crews for Lower-48 assignments.



TCC Type 1 IA Crew: Top row left to right: Donald Andon, Alex White, Dodd Flemming, Cortney Tritt, James Ludecker, Aaron Alexander, Colton Meier, Dakota Hermanns, Sky Hannon, Ezra Gibson, Ira Wyatt. Kneeling left to right: Patricia Kriska, Brandon Simmonds (detail FAF Tech), James Lord Jr, Isiaah Torres, Ken Stine, Mike Williams, Clinton Huntington, Quentin Demoski, Preston Peter.



*Left: Training at 2013 Academy.
Photo by Esther Horshel, BLM
Alaska Fire Service.*

*Right: 2013 Academy Graduation.
Photo by Maggie Rogers.*

Academy Overview

The Alaska Division of Forestry and BLM Alaska Fire Service conducted the Interagency Crewboss Academy from May 6-20, 2013. The bi-annual Alaska Interagency Crewboss Academy has focused on development and training of Emergency Firefighter Crewbosses for over 25 years. The purpose of the Academy is to facilitate fire crew program development statewide, to foster interagency training relationships, and to create educational partnerships with the University of Alaska.

The 2013 academy offered National Wildland Fire Coordinating Group (NWCG) courses in wildland fire operations, fire operations in the wildland/urban interface, leadership, fire management organization, fire behavior, fireline safety, incident command, Wilderness First Aid and CPR, practical skills training in interpersonal and radio communications, land navigation and other hands-on training and field exercises. The combination of courses and practical experience lead to the NWCG certification of Crewboss trainee for 19 of the participants.

Fire Training Program

The division provides training to maintain a qualified and safe workforce, ready to respond to wildland fires and other emergencies as needed. Interagency courses are open to structure fire departments, local government, other state agencies, emergency firefighters, other geographic areas, and Canadian fire agencies.

National Level Training (Lower 48)

Participation in Lower 48 training offered by other Geographic Areas, the National Advanced Fire and Resource Institute (NAFRI), and the National Fire Academy (NFA), helped the division meet the need for advanced level training to prepare our personnel to serve on Alaska's Incident Management Teams, train future instructors, support the fire medic program and provide Alaskans with professional career opportunities. Forestry employees and/or participants sponsored by the Division attended the following Lower-48 courses in 2013:

- Incident Leadership
- Organizational Leadership
- Fire in Ecosystem Management
- Single Engine Air Tanker Refresher
- Division/Group Supervisor
- Medical Unit Leader
- Incident Business Advisor
- Advanced Incident Management
- Area Command
- Geographic Information System Specialist

Alaskan Communities Represented

The 2013 Interagency Crewboss Academy candidates came from these rural and urban communities throughout Alaska:

Hughes
Marshall
Stebbins
Allakaket
Noorvik
Kaltag
Minto
Mountain Village
Hooper Bay
Holy Cross
Ambler
Nikolai
Chevak
Kalskag
Nondalton
Fairbanks
Nulato
Northway
Delta
Shageluk
Tok
Grayling

Instate Training

The majority of training in-state is provided through close cooperation of the Division of Forestry, the Alaska Fire Service, US Forest Service, Fire Departments, Local Governments, and Forestry Area Offices. Training was presented to meet national standards in Incident Command System, Suppression, Safety, Aviation, Dispatch, Leadership, and Fire Prevention positions. This training is the backbone for developing qualified, experienced personnel to fight fires both in and out of Alaska. Training was provided to Fire Departments/Local Government, Division of Forestry employees, Federal Cooperators, Emergency Firefighters, Division of Homeland Security, Alaska Railroad and Military students.

Many courses were offered to meet flex plan training requirements. These included Dispatch, Suppression, Leadership, Fire Investigation and Incident Command System courses.

IQS Account Managers were established in each Area Office. Annual IQS training provides program updates and key qualification information to IQS users. The division assisted local government and native organizations with using the Incident Qualification System (IQS) to track training and experience records. Through cooperative agreements, fire departments print red cards for positions covered in the operating agreements. These cooperators are a valuable source of trained and experienced firefighters available to assist the division with fire suppression. The division works closely with fire departments to help meet their training needs.

Forestry also supports native Corporation crews through agreements with the Tanana Chiefs Conference and Chugachmiut Corporation. Support to the crews consists of providing training, issuing red cards, tracking training and experience records, and assisting with mobilization.

Several Academies were conducted in Alaska in 2013. Interagency cooperation and continued partnership with the University of Alaska-Fairbanks made the delivery of the courses possible. The Academies consisted of grouping similar courses together within specific functional areas of the Incident Command System into back-to-back training opportunities. The academies consisted of Dispatch, Finance, Incident Command, Crew and Engine Boss courses. The increase in online training offered additional ICS and Aviation courses to students. Incident Command System training to meet the National Response Framework was completed by many students. The division training office produced CD's of the online, IS700-NIMS an Introduction, to Area Forestry Offices for ease of delivery to Emergency Firefighter Crews. Instructor development in suppres-



Interagency Crewboss Academy Graduates: Left to Right: Isiah Torres, from Delta; Melissa Sorenson, from Delta; Roger Hamilton, (mentor, from Shagaluk) - McGrath office; Shane Spearman, (Nikolai) - McGrath office; Daisy Hamilton, (Shagaluk) - McGrath office; (kneeling) Dallas Bush, Fairbanks office; Duane Littlefish, (Kalskag) - McGrath office; Jeff Kerr (mentor, Kalskag) - McGrath office; Chris Matchian, (Chevak) - McGrath office; Leo Moses Jr. - McGrath office; Carl Mann, (Hooper Bay) - McGrath office

sion, dispatch and finance courses helped secure cadres for future course delivery.

Advanced Wildland Firefighter Training Academy Program

The Alaska Advanced Wildland Firefighter Training Academy Program is more than a two week concentration of advanced skill courses for up and coming wildland firefighters. It is a comprehensive development program for engaging entry level firefighters, building resources to fill the ranks of our agency crews and permanent seasonal workforce.

In 2013 the Advanced Academy Program encompassed an Alaska tradition, the Interagency Alaska Crew boss Academy. Every odd-numbered year prospective village crew bosses are brought into Alaska Fire Service facilities at Fort Wainwright and spend twenty days together learning essential fireline and leadership skills. Our new partnership with the University of Alaska Fairbanks, Interior-Aleutians Campus was incorporated with our traditional partners and directly involved with instructional delivery. Through this partnership students could gain college credits for classes attended. Candidates included some previous graduates of Advanced Wildland Firefighter Academies and furthered their development as future firefighting leaders.

The National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) interagency qualification system entails two components which must go hand-in-hand, classroom training and real world experience. The six previous Advanced Wildland Firefighter Academies have provided ample classroom training. But, for many reasons, most graduates have been unable to acquire the experience needed (Position Task



Left to Right: Chris Maisch, Tom Lesate, Kato Howard, Tasha Shields, Commissioner Dan Sullivan, Avi Shalom. Photo: Alex West, PIO Oregon AD/EFF.

book completion) to gain the qualifications they had trained to become. A proposal submitted by Tom Dean, Acting McGrath FMO, was adopted to use short-term non-perm positions to create apprenticeships for academy graduates and single resource EFF to gain meaningful wildland fire experience. Thirteen positions in McGrath and four in Tok were hired. A very busy 2013 initial attack season in McGrath and then several large project fires statewide provided quality opportunities. One of our STNPs, Nan Llewellyn, an apprentice dispatcher from McGrath, was hired to fill a permanent seasonal position in the Kenai-Kodiak office.

Working with our interagency training partners, we have created several informal “academies” by scheduling the traditional presentation of related courses back-to-back at the same or nearby location so they can be attended in one trip. This reduces expenses and travel time for both agency and AD/EFF students. A Dispatch Academy (D-110 and ROSS) and Finance Academy (S-260, S-261 and I-Suite) will be annual presentations. In 2013 an Advanced Command Academy (S-300 Incident Commander Type 3, Incident Commander Type 3 Simulations, and L-381-Incident Leadership) and a Basic Command Academy (S-390 Introduction to Wildland Fire Behavior Calculations, S-336 Fire Suppression Tactics, Initial Attack Incident Commander Simulations, and S-330 Task Force Strike Team Leader) were conducted through out the state. The Alaska Engine Academy was presented in Palmer.

2013 National Fire Plan / Wildland Urban Interface Projects

The National Fire Plan was adopted in 2000 to provide grants to states, some on a competitive basis, to reduce the threat of fire in wildland/urban interface areas. Funds are also available for wildfire prevention and education programs, mitigation, capacity building and homeowner and community assistance. The Division of Forestry continues to implement the National Fire Plan by supporting a variety of educational and mitigation projects, such projects described below. National Fire Plan funding comes to the Division of Forestry from the USDA Forest Service.

10 LARGEST FIRE SEASONS ON RECORD

Year	# of Fires	# of Acres
2004	701	6,590,140
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
1977	681	2,295,808

2013 EFF Wages

\$5,899,814.84

In 2013, DOF mobilized and provided jobs to 727 Emergency Firefighters (EFF). In addition, 62 personnel and 9 crews were mobilized to the Lower 48 to supplement the national firefighting workforce, providing extended employment to over 600 Alaskans.

Initial Attack Fire Fighters

National Fire Plan funding continues to enable the Division of Forestry to retain 10 permanent seasonal initial attack firefighters in Palmer, Fairbanks, Soldotna, Delta, and Tok. These firefighters improve initial attack capabilities at the state, local government and volunteer fire departments in the urban interface areas. Effective initial attack of a fire reduces overall suppression costs and minimizes threats to private and public property from wildland fire.

Eastern Copper River (McCarthy) Hazardous Fuels Mitigation

A land owner- cost share program for thinning hazard fuels continued to be implemented. Nineteen initial assessments in 5 subdivisions were completed. 5 acres were treated. Due to the very long and busy fire season the planned thinning along Nizina, Kennicott and Silver Mine road was not accomplished but all permits and permissions have been obtained to implement the thinning on 41 acres in 2014. Firewise education and outreach took place and included: presentations at MAC meetings, April, May, July and August, working with the Wrangell Mt. Center on Firewise Landscape design that can be an example to the public. Held a design contest for a local Firewise design and received three great designs, spoke with the community on the steps to become a Firewise community. Forestry worked with the local VFD's and designed a Facebook page "Copper River Firewise" to improve the fire services ability to communicate and offer educational information to the communities and are working with Kennicott/McCarthy VFD and the McCarthy community to update their CWPP.

Glennallen Hazardous Fuels Reduction

Outreach and advertisement for the land-owner cost share hazard fuel program continued and completed 6 initial assessments and finalized 17. Completed all permitting process with DOT and completed a 50foot shaded fuel break along the SW corner adjacent to Pilcho drive. Woody debris disposal site for landowners utilizing the cost share program continues to be available. Homeowner's have received one on one Firewise education consultations during the assessments Forestry worked with Local VFD's to design a Facebook page "Copper River Firewise" to improve the fire service's ability to communicate and offer educational information to the communities.

McGrath City Fuel Breaks

In 2013 planning and assessment work was completed through a cooperative agreement between Forestry and MTMT. After comprehensive research and planning the McGrath Townsite Fuel Reduction Project Plan was presented to the public and McGrath City Council; receiving unanimous support. The field work of flagging in the project area boundaries was also completed. Due to the long

active 2013 fire season the field work of cutting and piling was not begun; this will take place in 2014. Fuel reduction work will take place prior to green up, then fuels will be piled and allowed to cure for the summer and burnt in late August.

Western Fairbanks Hazardous Fuels Reduction

Approximately 20 acres (1000) piles of black spruce were burned in March of 2013, completing the field work in the McCloud sub division. 140 acres of mechanical treatments in the Bears Den Subdivision were allowed to cure for two seasons then were burned during the fall of 2013. Firewise Alaska literature and Agency Burn permits were available at several community events, including Home Show host by Interior Building Association and the Tanana Valley Fair in August of 2013.

Fairbanks Slash Burning

In March of 2013 DOF personnel burned 15 acres of hand piles adjacent to private property along the Richardson Highway. Project information, along with Firewise Alaska literature and Agency Burn permits were available at several community events, including Home Show host by Interior Building Association and the Tanana Valley Fair in August of 2013.

During the summer of 2013 Forestry personnel updated prescribed fire burn plans, acquired Alaska DEC approval to burn and prepared vehicles and equipment. Public notifications were prepared and disseminated early in the summer to allow time for public and interagency comment. Site inspections were conducted to monitor public use. DOF staff members received valuable training on prescribed fire implementations, fuels monitoring and fire behavior, FOD provided project details to a Post Doctorate Associate from the University of Florida studying the various environmental effects of intensive forest monument activities.

Fire! In Alaska Workshops

During these workshops educators learn and practice key concepts of fire ecology, fire behavior, risk factors and participate in two home assessments. The Fire in Alaska workshops blend US Fish and Wildlife Service curricula (Role of Fire) with US Forest Service curriculum (Fireworks) with Division of Forestry adaptations. The workshops are sponsored by the Division of Forestry; but hosted by individual school districts at central locations where educators gather. Each teacher then returns to his or her home site and teaches the curriculum to their students. 3 workshops were held in 2013 in the communities of Holy Cross, Tok and Eagle River. A total of 25 educators attended the workshops. 16 workshops are planned for 2014 & 2015. Over 1000 educators have completed the course in Alaska and demand continues to remain high.

Elkutna Lakes Fuels Reduction

Scope of work will include a shaded fuel break along both sides of the 8 mile Eklutna Trail (193 acres). Fuel types and heavy public use make the area prone to fire starts. This will provide protection to the Eklutna watershed and its tributaries as well as safe access and egress from the remote camp sites. During the fall of 2013 Forestry's project manager met with a representative from Alaska State Parks to coordinate and schedule cutting in the specific units to allow for low impact on the park visitors and campers. GIS work was performed to map and flag boundaries within the project. Due to extensive wildland fire activity hand crews were not available in 2013 to begin the work. Fuels reduction work will take place during the 2014 field season.

Mat-Su Hazard Fuel Mitigation- Butte Recreational Trails & West Lakes

Work includes a total of 110 acres of shaded fuels breaks on 2 sites and the installation of Firewise Educational kiosks. 50 acres of shaded fuel breaks to be treated along Butte Recreational Trails and 60 acres in West lakes. This fall DOF technicians treated approximately 3.3 acres along the Butte Rec Trails and burned 150 piles of slash. Usable firewood was stacked and made available to the public. Work on this project will continue during the 2014 field season.

Fairbanks North Star Borough Fuels Reduction Phase

The Fairbanks North Star Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project Phase III will reduce hazardous fuels on 80+ acres and provide prevention education to approximately 5,000 residents living in Wildland Urban Interface in the Gilmore, Goldstream and Nordale subdivisions.

During the summer of 2013, site inspections were conducted to monitor public use (firewood, hunting/trapping) assess road trail conditions, identify critical infrastructure (power lines, survey markers) and document general site conditions. Applications for land use permits were submitted to land management agencies including: Alaska Division of Mining Land & Water, Alaska Mental Health Trust and the University of Alaska, Detailed maps and project description were produced and submitted to each permitting agency.

West Kenai Hazard Fuels Mitigation

This project removes 200 acres of hazardous fuels as determined by Community Wildfire Protection Plans. All fuel removal will be completed by hand including hauling slash from the site, chipping or burning in place if suitable conditions exist. Hand treatments are the preferred method of treatment; mechanical equipment would be limited by slope stability, access, and the proximity to surface waters.

During 2013 field season further reconnaissance of the site was conducted, evaluating access points, fuel density and property line boundaries. In addition landowners were briefed on the project objectives, desired outcomes and avenues for future partnership. Additional field work was unable to be completed due to unseasonably heavy rains and localized flooding in the Kenai area, resulting in a Presidential Disaster Declaration. Field work will resume in the summer and fall of 2014.

Statewide Prevention, Safe Burning & Firewise Principles Outreach

The project will create state-wide Public Service Announcements (PSAs) including TV and radio, a comprehensive Alaska Firewise web page and overarching social media campaign. Work on this project began late fall 2013 due to an active fire season. Initial research efforts have begun. In 2014 the information /education campaign development and the crafting of scripts and the structure of the Firewise web site will take place.

Social media provides non-traditional ways for the Division of Forestry (DOF) to share information and visuals and engage with an online community of public and media.

DOF Pages

Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/AK.Forestry>

Twitter:

http://twitter.com/ak_forestry

Youtube:

<http://www.youtube.com/alaskadnrdof>

Additional VOST Information:

<http://vosg.us/>

For more information, contact

tim.mowry@alaska.gov,
(907)-356-5511

Mentasta Village Defensible Space/Safe Passage Phase I

This project's funding was reduced by 60% from original amount tentatively awarded. A Phase II and III will be applied for in future federal fiscal years. The project (at reduced funding level) treats 40 acres & includes a 300' wide hazardous fuel break on all sides of the community with an additional large clearing of 500' near the ball field to serve as a safety zone and helispot/staging area. Tok Forestry has begun the planning phase by meeting with the Mentasta Village Council and Ahtna Inc. Aerial and ground reconnaissance of the area was completed of the village and surrounding area with experts in wildland fire management, timber removal, harvesting and professional foresters. GIS and mapping work have begun identifying and depicting the work to complete the objectives of the project. The village is planning to use the material removed for firewood and biomass to heat the homes and buildings of the village. The goal is to complete the project by November 2014.

Tok Safe Passage

The primary focus is on reducing hazard fuels on the primary maintained collector roads as identified in the CWPP (approx. 60 acres) permitting safe passage of residents during the event of an emergency WUI fire, preventing deadly entrapments. Two projects were completed in 2013 in collaboration with the Gateway School District, the Tok School, US Fish & Wildlife Tetlin Refuge, Tok Chamber of Commerce, Tok Volunteer Fire Department, Tok Umbrella Corporation, Alaska Power and Telephone, local contractor Mountains Edge Logging and Tanana Chiefs Council Type 2 IA fire crew. The first project thinned fuels on two road frontages for 1600 feet in a residential section of the community, providing safe egress and ingress. The second project was on Fales Road, 6000 feet of hazard fuels were removed. This road now provides for safe passage of residents and fire fighters out of the road to designated evacuation locations in the event of a wildfire.

New Projects Awarded National Fire Plan Funding in CY 2013- \$849,171.00

- **Anchorage Fire Department (AFD) Wildfire Mitigation: \$249,366.00**

Forestry will provide pass through funding to AFD for Firewise home inspections on up 100 ownerships and cost share hazard tree removal on 57 acres in the Municipality of Anchorage. Shaded fuels breaks will be constructed on total of 133 acres at various high hazard site in Eagle River, Chugiak, and Elkutna Inc. lands. Three of the sites are adjacent to schools. Debris from the treatment will be chipped and spread out over the treated acres or piled and burned in areas with steep slopes or poor access. Areas will be reseeded with a grass seed mix formulated to help stabilize soils and compete with the native grasses. All projects will be co-

ordinated through appropriate community councils and Homeowner Associations. Timely media releases will ensure adequate public notification and project support. Public Service Announcements (PSAs) will be provided via local television, radio, internet and newspaper. Four PSAs will be updated to reach a targeted audience of 750,000 and will focus on homeowner preparedness for the wildfire season and Key Firewise principles to modify risk factors during the spring pre green up fire season. PSAs on fireworks and pruning will follow in July.

- **Kenai Peninsula WUI Hazard Fuels Reduction & Homeowner Education - \$299,805**

Project will provide hazard fuel reduction on a targeted 250 acres with landowner cost share grants to non-industrial landowners in five high risk communities within the Kenai Peninsula Borough. Funds will be used to create defensible space, reduce the fire hazard, and improve forest health in adjoining timber stands by both mechanical and hand methods including thinning, piling, pruning, planting, scarifying and safe burning. A Firewise Risk Assessment adapted for South Central Alaska will be used to identify all concerns facing the homeowner. The assessment gives an overall numeric fire risk rating for the home; creates visual Firewise zones for the landowner on aerial images and inputs compiled Firewise data into existing GIS layers for Interagency operability. Landowners will work with local contractors to perform the treatments and remove any slash hazards created. The homeowner must also agree to follow additional guidelines set forth by the USDA Forest Health protection for bark beetle abatement, the DOF burn permit regulations and will be encouraged to utilize the bio-mass that is cut.

DOF will work with homeowners to complete on-going WUI defensible space activities & provide educational materials & outreach within these five high-risk communities. Because these areas are heavily used by residents and recreationalists alike, funding for prevention efforts will also focus on reducing the number of recreation and human-caused fires (combined target audience of 32,600 citizens).

- **Tok Escape Passage & Safety Zones - \$300,000**

Coinciding with the CWPP, this project's goals comprise: permitting a safe exodus for Tok residents by reducing hazardous fuels along primary collector roads (an area of approximately 100 acres and 15 miles of road), and establishing three safety zones for the public and wildfire fighters. Permits and authorizations pertaining to land use are obtained from the land owners prior to project work. Following practices of highest production and cost effectiveness.

Trees will be removed by hand felling and/or a Feller Buncher. In many cases, this will remove all trees between the road and power lines. Volatile spruce trees will be removed, while healthy spruce trees and deciduous trees, will be few and scattered. Ladder fuels up to 5' will be removed on all remaining spruce trees. Trees will be hauled to Tok School for use in their Biomass Project. Slash and ground fuels will be removed and taken to Forestry's bio-fuels pit for processing. Trees transported to Tok School will be processed into chips for heating the school- displacing 55,000 gallons of fuel oil. Complete utilization of material for biomass heating of the public school is safe, effective, emits no air pollution, eliminates waste with minimal disturbance to community and environment. This project's high public acceptance readily allows it to serve as a positive example of sustainability and Firewise benefits for the community. These lessons emphasizing the importance of Firewise practices will be re enforced during DOF and grant collaborators distribution of information and numerous outreach programs at the school and summer activities.

FFP/FEPP

The Division was not active acquiring new surplus equipment under the Federal Excess Personal Property (FEPP) or Fire Fighter Property (FFP) programs during 2013. Mark Ford helped gather data and put together the FEPP inventory that is required by the US Forest Service every two years. The Division continues to return surplus equipment that has been idle for years in Eagle River and some Area locations.

Statewide Ground Support

The Ground Support units in Eagle River and Fairbanks were both very busy during the 2013 fire season. Alex Kemnitz took over the duties of Ground Support Manager in Eagle River and assisted Russ Smith, the Northern Ground Support Manager in support of major fires in the northern Areas of the state. The Ground Support Managers helped acquire, inspect, and move over two hundred rental vehicles as well as numerous pieces of heavy equipment and other Emergency Equipment Rental Agreement (EERA) orders. Russ Smith and his inspectors also rendered valuable aid to the Alaska Fire Service in helping with major demobilizations of the Stuart Creek and Mississippi fires.

State Fire Warehouse

The State Fire Warehouse system processed over 6000 issues for a total of \$18,700,000 in 2013 on 240 In-State incidents. The 2013 Fire Season was above average. We started supporting the River Watch flood project on the Yukon in May and supported multiple extended attack and project fires throughout the state.

During our extremely busy season we borrowed \$900,000 of supplies from the Redmond and Coeur D'Alene Fire Caches when no other Lower 48 supplies were available. We also provided \$1,100,000 in support of Federal Fires in Alaska and the Lower 48. Our Small Engine shops repaired 420 pumps and 270 saws in a season where borrowable equipment was in short supply.

Volunteer Fire Assistance Grants to Rural Communities

The Volunteer Fire Assistance program provides funds to increase firefighter safety, improve the firefighting capabilities of rural volunteer fire departments, and enhance protection in the wildland urban interface. The funds come through the U. S. Forest Service and are administered by the Division of Forestry.

In 2013, the VFA Grant Program provided \$246,984.62 to rural fire departments. The division received 37 requests for equipment, training and prevention activities and funded 16.

2013 VFA Grant Program

Fire Dept.	\$ Awarded
Alelangik	\$10,000.00
Anchor Point	\$19,997.30
Bethel	\$17,244.00
Coffman Cove	\$8,649.00
Hoonah	\$18,538.00
Kaasan	\$13,898.79
Kennicott/McCarthy	\$20,000.00
Palmer Fire & Rescue	\$19,400.00
Rural Deltana	\$20,000.00
Salcha	\$20,000.00
Seldovia	\$5,780.53
Strelina	\$20,000.00
Sutton	\$18,268.00
Tenakee Springs	\$10,053.00
Tok	\$16,400.00
TriValley	\$6,000.00
Grand Total	\$246,984.62

State Logistics Center

The State Logistics Center processed 317 Overhead orders, 50 Aircraft orders, 219 Equipment orders and so many Supply order the report would not finish downloading. (Per ROSS Reports.) Of these Supply orders, 55 orders were for fresh food boxes supporting 15 large fires.

In addition we mobilized 42 Alaska crews and utilized 9 IHC crews from the Lower 48. We also provided support for 2 FEMA incidents – the Galena Floods and the Storm 2013.

In mid fire season, the workload caused the need for SLC to expand beyond the capacity of the dispatch center location and relocate to the University of Alaska-Fairbanks to continue providing full logistical support for State of Alaska Forestry. Utilizing campus facilities has been very beneficial but does involve a significant transition from one location to another during a very busy time.

SLC is developing the ability to expand within additional space adjoining our current location, acquired since the 2013 fire season. This will eliminate the potentially tumultuous transitions from one location to another and will save costs of renting dispatch space and equipment for dispatching.

In addition to the normal workload of State Logistics, a State Logistics Center Coordinator and State Logistics Center Assistant Manager were hired to fill vacant positions.

Aviation Program

2013 was a busy year for the aviation staff. Training was a high priority with the training of Dennis Blankenbaker, and Randy Weber in the Air Attack/Logistical position. Chief Pilot, Doug Burts did a great, safe and very professional job! Candy Simmons continues to be the glue that holds our administrative requirements together. Steve Edwards and Wes Walker, as always, do the best of maintenance, thanks for the excellent and professional job!

The Aviation Section completed the sale of the second PC-7 and acquired the replacement for that aircraft, a Turbo Twin Commander 840. This will give the Division greater versatility, speed and training opportunities than we had with the PC-7's. The Division continued the ASM/Lead Plane Bird Dog program to include the continued training of 2 pilots. This was accomplished with the newly acquired Twin Commander 840 and one leased Turbine Commander 690 aircraft. A Federal Excess Property Program DHC-2 Beaver, and the leased Commander 500S, provided logistical support and ATGS training, aerial firing and FLIR mapping missions. These aircraft totaled 886 flight hours.

This fire season was the first year of a five year contract for 2 of the Convair 580, type 2 airtankers supplied by Conair of Abbotsford, BC. One was based in Palmer and the other at the Ladd Army Air Base in Fairbanks. With a tremendous amount of help from the Interagency Air Tanker Board, Conair and the Department of Interior, Aviation Management Directorate, the Convair 580 was given full approval by the Air Tanker Board. This allowed our State contracted airtankers to be used on federally protected lands. These airtankers flew 273 flight hours and dropped over 818,684 gallons of retardant in Alaska.

The Division released these airtankers in early August, and as part of our contract, both airtankers and additional Convair 580 was ordered by the US Forest Service for duty in the lower 48. Through contract extensions, they remained on duty until the end of September.

Evergreen Helicopters provided three long term contracted type 2 helicopters, located in Palmer, Fairbanks, Rogers Helicopters provided a type 2 helicopters, one in Soldotna and one in McGrath, Temsco helicopters in Tok and a "Call When Needed" contact for Prism Helicopters in Delta. These rotorcraft provided platforms for both IA Helitack, and logistical support. Total flight hours were 878 hours. The Northwest Compact was put into use with great effect, a British Columbia "RAP Attack" helicopter were used to help support the Tok area. During our high fire danger period, a Convair Tanker Group and an L188-Electra Tanker Group were supplied by British Columbia and a 3 skimmer (215T) group from Alberta as well. Again this year the 840 Commander was ordered by the US Forest Service for Lead Plane/ASM duty in the Western US till mid-September.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION



Mike Curran – 15 Years

Mike Curran earned his Forestry degree from the University of Massachusetts in 1977 after a stint in the U.S. Navy in communications. He served in Viet Nam during the conflict and subsequently served on two aircraft carriers and two submarines. Mike left the Navy with the equivalent rank of an E-5 Sergeant, although most of Forestry recognizes him as the 'Admiral'. After graduation, Mike moved his family to Oregon where he worked in the private sector as a timber cruiser and surveyor for 10 years. He traveled throughout the Northwest on consulting jobs and surveyed the containment dam constructed after the Mt. St. Helens explosion. The mudslides from Mt. St. Helens actually took out a bridge on I-5 which was closed for almost a week. A containment dam was constructed in the event of further mud slides.

Mike moved to Ketchikan in 1988 to be a forester for Klukwon Forest Products. He was the Head of the Cruising and Engineer Department for Klukwon until 1994. While with Klukwon Mike went to Siberia and cruised timber (Scotch pine) for two weeks to evaluate a potential joint timber project with the Russian Federation. The proposal would have contracted to build hard rock roads for the federation and payment would be in the term of timber over time. The project did not economically pencil out.

Mike ran his own timber consulting business for four years, primarily cruising timber throughout most of Alaska as well as Southeast. In 1998 he started working for Forestry as the Ketchikan Area Forester. He was the only person in the Ketchikan Area Office for one year and then slowly built up the forest practices and timber sales program in the Southern Southeast. He was the Ketchikan Area Forester from 1998 to 2005 when he was promoted to Regional Forester.

As Coastal Regional Forester he worked with Governor Murkowski and his staff on the bridge timber program to provide the industry with state timber sales due to the lack of US Forest Service timber supply. As part of that he developed the RFP process. His leadership and accomplishments were recognized with the Exceptional Service Award from the Commissioner of Natural Resources. Governor Parnell presented him the Denali Peak Award for that program. An exceptional accomplishment.

Mike has provided strong leadership and vision across resource and fire programs. He encouraged resource foresters to obtain fire qualifications and promoted their availability to assist the fire program, resulting in much needed support in areas such as GIS. He has developed a strong resource and fire program in the Coastal Region. He identified the need for a roads office in the Division of Forestry and worked hard to achieve that goal. Mike developed the documentation for the 25 year biomass sale in Tok, the first long-term timber sale. To facilitate that, he took over the management of the Tok Area, starting in 2012 and was the agency administrator on the Moon River Complex Fire in 2013. He also developed the large project team to assist with large timber sales and biomass projects throughout the state.

After retirement Mike and his wife intend to do a fair amount of traveling throughout America and in foreign lands. He also intends to further spoil his grandchildren who are a big part of their lives along with his daughters.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION



Claudia Dwyer – 15 Years

Claudia Dwyer joined the Division of Forestry when Forestry was located in the Frontier Building, working for 'Chris' Christianson and Janet Davis. Claudia worked for the Anchorage School District in an administrative capacity in Education Resources for 4 years. She and her husband Mike, came to Alaska in 1973 with her family from Southern California. They just celebrated their 49th wedding anniversary!

Claudia ran her own business as a hair stylist for 16 years until she closed her Eagle River business and the Big Lake Fire destroyed her cabin and equipment.

Claudia is an Accounting Tech for Forestry's Central Office, processing financial data, tracking grants, doing AJEs and encumbrances as well as budget support, including organization charts!

Claudia is very active in her church and community, including support to the Highland Mountain Correctional prison ministry as a religious volunteer. Her grandchildren are a joy and her coworkers all appreciate the stories and photos of their latest antics.



Steve Maily – 15 Years

2014 marks Steve Maily's 24th season with the Division of Forestry, along with the benchmark of 15 years of service. From 1986 until July of 1990, Steve worked initial attack for the Valdez/Copper River Area office as an EFF and as a FFT1 on the Copper River Crew.

After several years serving as an engine and Helitack Foreman Steve began working in dispatch along with continued involvement in operations. Later, in 2001, he moved into the role of Wildland Fire Dispatcher full time. It was during those years that the Dispatch world began progressing into the electronic age.

It has become Steve's conviction that adaptability, a well developed sense of optimism and a commitment to performance will continue to mark the State of Alaska Division of Forestry as a "high reliability" organization.

Steve and his wife of 32 years, Karen, have raised 10 children in Alaska along the way; teaching them to fear God, become self-reliant, and to love and enjoy their independence here in the last frontier.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION



Randy Weber – 15 Years

Randy Weber started flying for the State of Alaska in 1992 with the Department of Fish and Game on Kodiak Island. For the next 11 years he flew a variety of aircraft around Kodiak and the Alaska Peninsula in support of Fish and Game projects. Randy found that a biologist goal in life is to count things and an airplane is a great platform to count from. During those years he participated in counting and surveying populations of fish, marine mammals, whales, deer, bear, moose, musk ox, elk and mountain goats.

In 2003 Randy resigned from Fish and Game to operate his own aerial survey company and to take advantage of an opportunity to fly fires as an Air Attack pilot.

In 2006 Randy and his family moved from Kodiak Island to Palmer after accepting a flying job with the Department of Public Safety. His primary duty with DPS was instructing Trooper pilots in off airport flying techniques and conducting pilot check flights for DPS staff.

In 2008 Randy went to work with the Division of Forestry as a seasonal aircraft pilot based out of Palmer. Flying the fire season in 2004 had wet his appetite for the aviation side of wild land firefighting. His six seasons with Forestry have been busy with both tactical and logistical flying missions throughout the state.



Joanne Singer – 15 Years

Living in Delta Junction and working for the Division of Forestry could not be more different than the life that Joanne had in Manhattan working for a financial services company. Joanne began her career with the Division of Forestry Delta Area on a hot dry day June 10, 1998. The Carla Lake fire had been very active and had begun consuming large acreage. She saw her new boss very sparingly over the course of 4 days. Joanne became inundated with the paper work associated with a large fire, extreme fire indices and a busy fire season. It seems rather odd that the 100 mile, extreme indices, and a busy fire season in 2014 again occur again after 15 years of service to the State. During Joanne's 15 years of service, she has processed bills on 5 project fires, many smaller incidents, and extended staffing. Day to day activities include tracking preparedness, Resource Management, Timber receipts, and CIP budgets.

There are so many great qualities about Joanne. But the one that stands out consistently is her willingness to speak her mind. You might ask her opinion or she just might give it to you. An equal strength of Joanne is her ability to work on several projects at once. Her job requires this skill as many projects are moving through the year. Joanne is an outstanding employee who continues to excel.

While fire season doesn't leave Joanne with a lot of free time, Joanne still manages to find time for her favorite sport – racquetball. Despite sore knees, twisting an ankle and breaking a wrist, she continues to play the game as often as possible.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION



Joel Nudelman – 15 Years

Joel grew up in Oregon, graduating from the University of Oregon with a BS degree in Geography. As an undergraduate he accumulated enough forestry and biology course credits to qualify for hire as a forester. After graduation he moved to Anchorage where he attended the University of Alaska Anchorage working toward a land surveying degree and working as a surveyor and cartographer with the US Department of the Interior Minerals Management Service. He saw a lot of Alaska during those years completing marine boundary surveys along the Beaufort, Chukchi and Bristol Bay Coastlines. He later was employed by the Bureau of Land Management working on survey of the Alaska Railroad Right of Way.

Joel began his forestry career as a Natural Resource Specialist and Forester with Tlingit - Haida Indian Tribes where he worked on a lot of young growth stand management. Joel was subsequently hired by DOF as a Forester II in the Juneau office. In his fifteen year tenure with DOF Joel won promotion to Forester III and has been regularly involved in extensive timber sales and forest practices work. Due to his specific knowledge, talents and initiative he led Coastal Region in application of GPS and GIS technologies, and is now the DOF specialist in FRPA compliance monitoring and road condition surveying. Additionally Joel developed the initial version of the timber sale reporting system as well as the web-based version 2. He supports the fire program annually as a GIS trainer and has completed assignments as PIO, Resource Advisor and GISS. Joel is a valued member of the DOF GIS Committee and may be Committee President for Life.

Joel is also a member of the UAS Geomatics Advisory Board. The Geomatics department was formerly the Surveying and Mapping Sciences department. His favorite place to work is Icy Bay.

With his wife Liz, he enjoys spending time outdoors in Alaska and the Yukon camping, hiking and biking. During the winter months in Juneau he enjoys Nordic, backcountry and alpine skiing. Other passions include his saltwater boat time, fishing, crabbing and exploring. Joel and Liz enjoy international travel and have been to Denmark, Switzerland, Netherlands, Germany, Belgium, Italy, Costa Rica and Jamaica.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION



Jim Eleazer - 20 Years

Jim Eleazer retired from the Division of Forestry as Coastal Region Forester on September 1, 2005. At that time he and his wife relocated to Melaque, a small seaside village a few hours south of Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. For the next eighteen months they travelled Mexico, Belize, National Parks throughout the western US, Thailand and Laos.

During that time they applied to US Peace Corps and Oklahoma State University for acceptance into the Peace Corps Master's International Program. After three semesters of on-campus course work Jim and Robin departed for Peace Corps Volunteer service in Ukraine. Normal Peace Corps service is 24 months; however they extended for 18 months beyond their 24. They were awarded MS degrees in International Studies in 2010.

The first task Jim was given in Ukraine was to develop tourism as an economic sector for his community. As his community did not have unique tourism assets to brand and market he realized that tourism would have to be developed on a larger scale. The Carpathian Mountains, the last great biodiversity refuge in Europe, with a unique cultural group (Hutsuls) living in isolated villages scattered throughout the mountains was the tourism draw. A network of local use trails existed with numerous 40-50 year old mountain refuge huts badly in need of refurbishment. A culture of trekking in the Carpathian Mountains existed, however it had been nearly eliminated during the Soviet occupation of the country. The Transcarpathian Hiking Trail and East Carpathian Hiking Trail needed to be marketed as a brand which meant they must be marked, signed and mapped before tourists could be safe. Huts also needed to be refurbished. The local communities needed to be trained in international tourism standards and expectations. The effort required that public - private partnerships be created and

The Kosice Peace Marathon is the oldest marathon in Europe and the third-oldest in the world. It takes place in the historic city center of Kosice, Slovakia.

nurtured. Websites, social and print media had to be developed and utilized for marketing purposes. Networking had to occur. Networking, partnering and marketing are extremely difficult to develop in post-Soviet society. Jim wrote and won grants from the US Embassy, the Netherlands Embassy, the Norway Embassy and the Rufford Foundation for Nature Conservation to establish, mark, GPS, sign and map several hundred kilometers of trails as well as refurbish six mountain huts. With Ukrainian partners he recruited and organized other Ukrainian and international volunteers to do the work and led work parties. When he began 12-15 volunteers would show up for a weekend work project and when he left as many as 60 volunteers would show up for a weekend work project. With so many volunteers he was able to expand his effort into trail maintenance and trail trash removal. He also explored new routes to provide more loop trails as they are the most popular with tourists and promote more community economic development.

Another large project Jim developed, wrote and managed was the implementation of energy efficiency measures for two public buildings in his city. To the city museum he: installed new windows and doors; replaced the existing heating system and added hot water; added ceiling insulation; added insulation to the exterior walls; and replaced existing incandescent lighting fixtures with museum quality compact fluorescent fixtures. To a city school he installed new windows and doors. This project received approximately 120,000 Euro from the European Union with small amounts of additional funding from the Norwegian Embassy, his city and county. This project was far beyond the scope of 99% of US Peace Corps Volunteer projects.

Jim and Robin were able to travel to the countries of Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Poland, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Hungary, the Netherlands and Spain. In Spain Jim ran with the bulls two mornings during the annual two-week festival of Pamplona. It was a thrilling finish to his Peace Corps service and time in Europe.

Jim returned to work for the Division of Forestry as the Resources Program Manager at the end of August 2012 specifically to assist in creating new state forests and establishing a roads, bridges and infrastructure unit within the Division.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION



Karlyn Herrera – 25 Years

I grew up a “military brat” traveling the USA with my Air Force father until 1980 when we moved back to Alaska for dad to retire. I graduated from Wasilla High School and attended UAA, graduating with a Bachelor’s Degree in Mathematics with a minor in secondary education.

Started my State of Alaska career as a humble clerk typist III (remember that job class?). For a few years I jumped around looking for the department that would be a good fit. I landed in DNR/Oil & Gas in August 1994. I have happily been with DNR for nearly 20 years. I spent several years in Oil & Gas learning the ropes. From there I moved to the Division of Land – which soon became the Division of Mining, land and Water. I spent 10 years in ML&W, learning the ins and outs of administrative management, from a DNR perspective as well as a statewide perspective. From ML&W I moved to Parks & Outdoor Recreation. After spending 5 years learning even more from an even different perspective – including deferred maintenance and Forest Legacy – I find myself in the Division of Forestry. I hope to learn the most from this division. The complexity of the budget, as well as the grants, CIPs, Fire funds, etc., etc., etc., should allow me to continue to learn through to retirement.

I look forward to the time I will have in the Division of Forestry as much as I look forward to retiring in Northern Nevada (sometime around 2020).



Chris Olson – 25 Years

Chris “Ole” Olson began his career in wildland fire in 1974 with a USFS Youth Conservation Crew doing mop up on a fire at Russian River. After two seasons of YCC work, he went to work for the BLM and spent 5 seasons as a member of the Anchorage District Hotshots and one season on the short-lived McGrath Hotshots as the Assistant Superintendent.

In 1982 Ole began his career with the State as a Forest Technician III/Regeneration Technician for the Tyonek project. Later that year, Ole accepted a position as an Initial Attack Tech III out of Big Lake. For the next two seasons Ole worked in suppression as an engine/helitack foreman and became the station foreman in Eagle River.

Keeping it short, (too late), over the last 30+ years, Ole held a number of different positions in state service, including: 1 season as an initial attack dispatcher; 4 seasons as a regional logistics dispatcher; 3 seasons as the Intern Program Manager; 11 seasons as the Mat-Su Area Fire Prevention Officer/Forest Warden; 1 season as Acting FMO for Mat-Su; 2 years as Coastal Region’s Fire Prevention & Training Officer; 7 seasons as the Mat-Su Logistics Coordinator; and currently in his 2nd year as the Mat-Su Resource Forester.

In his words: Currently, I am in my 33rd season with the state, and have worked through: 8 governors, 18 commissioners, 10 state foresters, 6 chiefs of fire, 7 FMOs (one was me), 5 division realignments, 5 area foresters, 4 regional foresters, 4 major budget cuts, 3 unions, 2 small budget cuts, and 1 bad attitude. I am looking forwards to what is going to happen next. Yes, this makes me sound old, and some days I feel it. Plus, it only took me 32 years to get 25 in. Not bad if I say so myself, and I just did.

While not at work, Ole enjoys falling off his horse, horse training, clearing for pasture, raising various large and small animals, wishing he had time to go fly fishing, loving his wife, and arguing with his children.

2013 ACTUALS

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

FUNDING SOURCES	FOREST MGMT & DEVELOPMENT	FIRE PREPAREDNESS	FIRE ACTIVITY	TOTALS
General Funds	\$3,762.6	\$16,218.3	\$26,299.6	\$46,280.5
Federal Funds	\$855.0	\$1,165.8	\$19,688.5	\$21,709.3
Capital Improvement				\$0.0
Receipts (Fed, GF, & SDPR)	\$635.4	\$572.4	- 0	\$1,207.8
Interagency Receipts	\$360.4	\$566.1	\$358.2	\$1,284.7
Timber Receipts	\$293.4	-0	- 0	\$293.4
Other (SDPR)	\$8.3	-0	\$529.6	\$537.9
TOTALS	\$5,915.1	\$18,522.6	\$46,875.9	\$71,313.6
POSITIONS				
Permanent Full-Time	42	33	- 0	75
Permanent Part-Time /Seasonal	4	184	- 0	188
Interns	13	- 0	- 0	13

FOREST MANAGEMENT & DEVELOPMENT COMPONENT

RENEWABLE RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT & SALES	COASTAL REGION	NORTHERN REGION	STATEWIDE	TOTALS
Board of Forestry	- 0	- 0	\$19.6	\$19.6
Forest Practices	\$603.7	- 0	\$22.1	\$625.8
Forest Management	\$1,197.6	\$1,128.0	\$473.4	\$2,799.0
Anchorage School District Interns	\$57.6	- 0	- 0	\$57.6
Interagency Receipts	\$43.2	\$0.4	\$316.8	\$360.4
Stat. Desig. Program Receipts (SDPR)	\$5.3	- 0	\$3.0	\$8.3
Federal Cooperative Forestry Assistance	- 0	- 0	\$855.0	\$855.0
Capital Improvement Receipts (Other)	\$94.7	\$11.4	\$529.3	\$635.4
Subtotals	\$2,002.1	\$1,139.8	\$2,219.2	\$5,361.1
Director's Office	- 0	- 0	\$554.0	\$554.0
COMPONENT TOTALS	\$2,002.1	\$1,139.8	\$2,773.2	\$5,915.1

FIRE SUPPRESSION PREPAREDNESS COMPONENT

	COASTAL REGION	NORTHERN REGION	STATEWIDE	TOTALS
Preparedness	\$4,781.7	\$3,375.1	\$8,061.5	\$16,218.3
Interagency Receipts	\$39.4	\$33.9	\$492.8	\$566.1
Federal Cooperative Initial Attack	\$221.9	\$75.7	\$868.2	\$1,165.8
Capital Improvement Receipts (Other)	\$167.9	\$171.2	\$233.3	\$572.4
COMPONENT TOTALS	\$5,210.9	\$3,655.9	\$9,655.8	\$18,522.6

2014 BUDGET

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

FUNDING SOURCES	FOREST MGMT & DEVELOPMENT	FIRE PREPAREDNESS	FIRE ACTIVITY	TOTALS
General Funds	\$3,901.8	\$17,162.3	\$6,663.3	\$27,727.4
Federal Funds	\$1,233.2	\$1,678.5	\$11,960.4	\$14,872.1
Capital Improvement				
Receipts (Fed, GF, & SDPR)	\$313.6	\$908.0	- 0	\$1,221.6
Interagency Receipts	\$496.3	\$395.6	- 0	\$891.9
Timber Receipts	\$851.4	-0	- 0	\$851.4
Other (SDPR)	\$55.0	-0	\$1,500.0	\$1,555.0
TOTALS	\$6,851.3	\$20,144.4	\$20,123.7	\$47,119.4
POSITIONS				
Permanent Full-Time	42	34	- 0	76
Permanent Part-Time /Seasonal	4	183	- 0	187
Non-Permanent	13	- 0	- 0	13

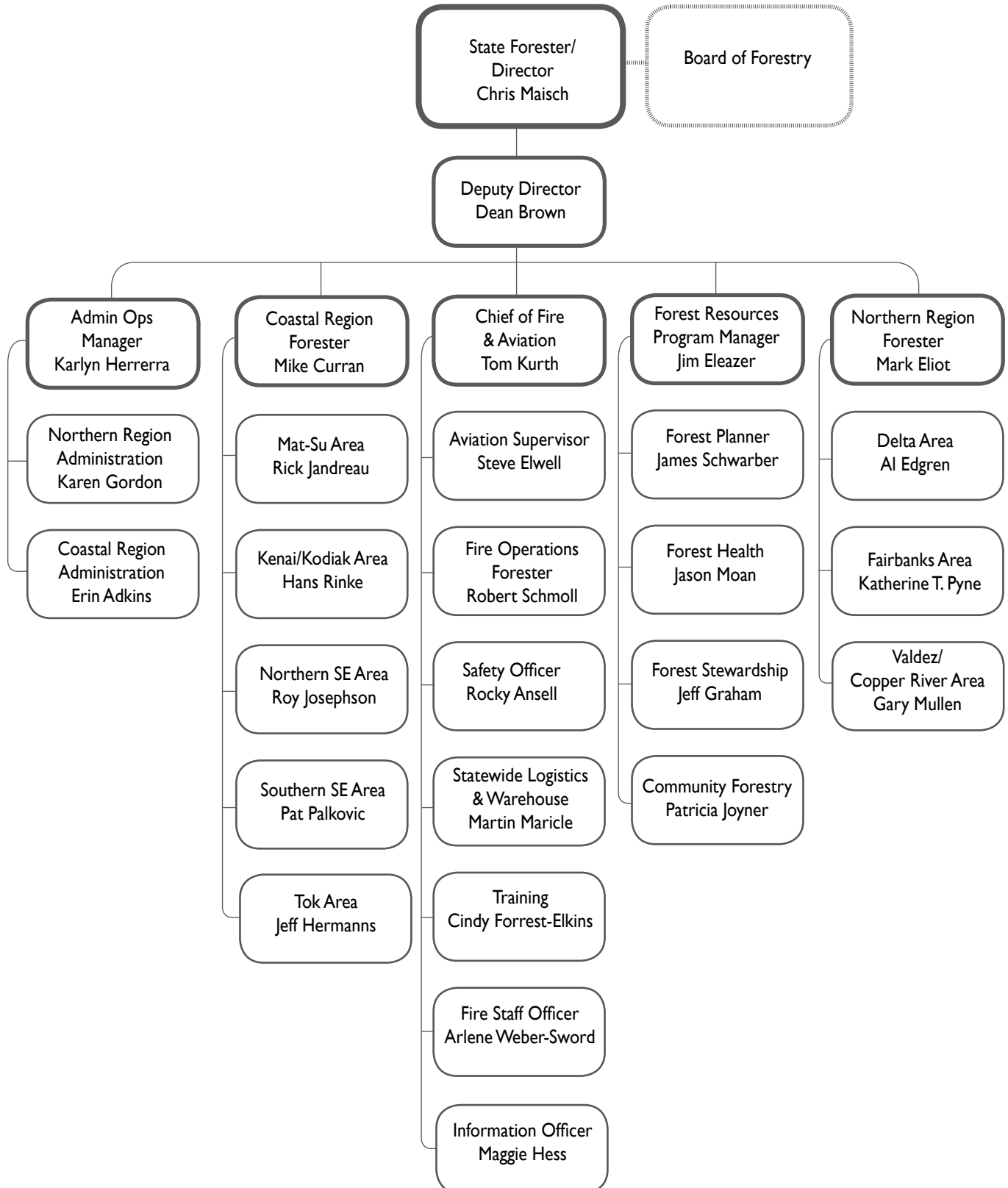
FOREST MANAGEMENT & DEVELOPMENT COMPONENT

RENEWABLE RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT & SALES	COASTAL REGION	NORTHERN REGION	STATEWIDE	TOTALS
Board of Forestry	- 0	- 0	\$18.0	\$18.0
Forest Practices	\$561.8	- 0	\$69.2	\$631.0
Forest Management	\$1,301.4	\$1,112.9	\$1,000.4	\$3,414.7
Anchorage School District Interns	\$52.6	- 0	- 0	\$52.6
Interagency Receipts	- 0	- 0	\$496.3	\$496.3
Stat. Desig. Program Receipts (SDPR)	- 0	- 0	\$55.0	\$55.0
Federal Cooperative				
Forestry Assistance	- 0	- 0	\$1,233.2	\$1,233.2
Capital Improvement Receipts (Other)	- 0	- 0	\$313.6	\$313.6
Subtotals	\$1,915.8	\$1,112.9	\$3,185.7	\$6,214.4
Director's Office	- 0	- 0	\$636.9	\$636.9
COMPONENT TOTALS	\$1,915.8	\$1,112.9	\$3,822.6	\$6,851.3

FIRE SUPPRESSION PREPAREDNESS COMPONENT

	COASTAL REGION	NORTHERN REGION	STATEWIDE	TOTALS
Preparedness	\$4,242.1	\$2,462.3	\$10,457.9	\$17,162.3
Interagency Receipts	- 0	- 0	\$395.6	\$395.6
Federal Cooperative				
Forestry Assistance	- 0	- 0	\$1,678.5	\$1,678.5
Capital Improvement Receipts (Other)	- 0	- 0	\$908.0	\$908.0
COMPONENT TOTALS	\$4,242.1	\$2,462.3	\$13,440.0	\$20,144.4

DIVISION OF FORESTRY ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



DIVISION OF FORESTRY DIRECTORY

State Forester's Office

550 West Seventh Avenue, Suite 1450
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3566
269-8463 fax: 269-8931

State Forester

John "Chris" Maisch, 451-2666

Deputy State Forester

Dean Brown, 269-8476

Admin. Services Manager

Karlyn Herrera, 269-8477

Chief of Fire and Aviation

Tom Kurth, 451-2675

Forest Resources Program Mgr.

Jim Eleazer, 269-8473

Forest Planning

Jim Schwarber, 451-2704

Community Forestry Program

Patricia Joyner, 269-8465

Forest Health & Protection

(Insects and Disease)

Roger Burnside, 269-8460

Forest Stewardship Program

(Landowner Assistance)

101 Airport Road

Palmer, Alaska 99645

Jeff Graham, 761-6309 fax: 761-6201

State Fire Operations

P.O. Box 35005

Ft. Wainwright, Alaska 99703

356-5850 fax: 356-5855

Robert Schmoll, Operations Forester

Logistics: 356-5645

Intelligence: 356-5674

Air Attack: 356-5852

Training, Anchorage: 269-8441

AICC Coordinator: 356-5682

State Fire Support

3700 Airport Way

Fairbanks, Alaska 99709-4699

451-2608 fax: 451-2690

Martin Maricle, Fire Support Forester

Aviation Program

101 Airport Road

Palmer, Alaska 99645

761-6271 Fax: 761-6273

Steve Elwell, Aviation Manager

Communications & Technical Systems

3700 Airport Way

Fairbanks, Alaska 99709-4699

451-2810

Jordan Halden, Coordinator

NORTHERN REGION

Northern Region Office

3700 Airport Way

Fairbanks, Alaska 99709-4699

451-2660 fax: 451-2690

Mark Eliot, Regional Forester

State Logistics: 451-2680

Aviation Mgmt.: 451-2691

State Communications: 451-2810

Fairbanks Area Office

451-2600 fax: 458-6895

K. T. Pyne, Area Forester

Fire line: 451-2626

Fire Ops. Fax: 451-2633

Reception: 451-2660

Logistics: 451-2680

Aviation Mgmt.: 451-2691

Delta Area Office

P.O. Box 1149

Delta Junction, Alaska 99737

(Mi. 267.5 Richardson Hwy.)

895-4225 fax: 895-2125

Al Edgren, Area Forester

Fire line: 895-4227

Tok Area Office

Box 10 (Mile 123.9 Tok Cutoff)

Tok, Alaska 99780

883-1400 fax: 883-5135

Jeff Hermanns, Area Forester

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

Gary Mullen, Area Forester

COASTAL REGION

Coastal Region Office

2417 Tongass Ave. Ste 213

Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

225-3070 fax: 247-3070

Michael Curran, Regional Forester

Coastal Region Office Palmer Office

101 Airport Road

Palmer, Alaska 99645

Reception 761-6289

Dispatch: 761-6220

Aviation Mgmt.: 761-6229

Mat-Su/Southwest Area Office

761-6301 Fax 761-6319

Rick Jandreau, Area Forester

Fire line: 761-6311

Burn Permit: 761-6338

McGrath Field Office (Seasonal)

Box 130

McGrath, Alaska 99627

524-3010 fax: 524-3932

Fire Management Officer: Mike Roos

Fire line: 524-3366

Kenai-Kodiak Area Office

42499 Sterling Highway

Soldotna, Alaska 99669

(Mi. 92.5 Sterling Hwy.)

260-4200 fax: 260-4205

Hans Rinke, Area Forester

Fire line: 260-3473

Burn Permit: 260-4269

Dispatch: 260-4232

Northern Southeast Area Office

P.O. Box 263 (Gateway Building)

Haines, Alaska 99827

766-2120 fax: 766-3225

Roy Josephson, Area Forester

Southern Southeast Area Office

2417 Tongass Avenue, Suite 213

Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

225-3070 fax: 247-3070

Pat Palkovic, Area Forester



Alaska Department of
**NATURAL
RESOURCES**



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