

**DEPARTMENT:** Natural Resources  
**APPROPRIATION:** Land and Water Resources  
**ALLOCATION:** Forest Management and Development

92.0	Personal Services
7.0	Travel
15.0	Services
3.0	Commodities
<b>\$117.0</b>	<b>Total</b>

**POSITIONS:** Add 1 PFT Forester II (Seasonal)

**EXPLANATION:**

This position was deleted as part of a much larger reduction (\$1.1 million) that occurred in the FY16 budget process when the following positions were cut from the Forest Management and Development Component: 1 PCN and partial funding for 1 PCN in Haines, 2 PCNs and partial funding for 1 PCN Ketchikan, 1 PCN in Soldotna, 1 PCN in Anchorage, 1 PCN Forester II and 10 Intern positions in Palmer, partial funding for 1 PCN Forester III in Glennallen, and fund switches for 4 PCNs in Ketchikan from General Fund (GF) to Designated General Fund (DGF). Over a three-year period (FY14-16) the Forest Management Development Component has seen a 42% reduction in GF.

Concurrent to the Forest Management reductions in FY16 there were similar reduction to the Fire Suppression Preparedness Component. A decrement of \$1.1 million cut 16 permanent seasonal positions in McGrath. The combination of these decrements required a major reorganization in the Division to adjust the workloads for staff and span of control for managers to maintain core mission activities as best as possible.

Funding in the amount of \$117.0 would restore a seasonal Forester II position in the Haines state forest office, which is facing closure due to previous funding reductions. This position has duties associated with the timber sale program, personal use firewood permits, road maintenance, and provides oversight for a variety of commercial and public uses in the state forest.

The state forest contributes to the Haines economy by providing access for numerous multiple use activities that are a mix of commercial and personal use. An active timber sale program encourages and supports jobs in the forest products sector, produces revenue and provides access to the state forest by maintaining and keeping the road system open. The roads provide access for the personal use firewood program, which is utilized by local residents and businesses as a primary or supplemental heating source. Other key points for consideration:

- Businesses that depend on state timber sales in the Haines State Forest will be able to obtain a consistent wood supply. Timber sales will be offered on a regular basis consistent with the allowable cut level. Last year there were six separate businesses that purchased timber sales in Haines.
- A 3.4 million board foot timber sale contract for the Glacier Side Two sale was sold in 2016 and sale administration will be more efficient with an onsite Forester II sale administrator. The purchaser will not experience delays for field inspections and operational issues that require immediate attention.
- An additional 20 million board foot timber sale (Baby Brown) was recently sold and will need contract administration and oversight. This position also completes timber sale work on behalf of the Mental Health and University Trust Land Management Programs, which generates revenue for their respective trust programs and is an efficient use of staff to meet forest management needs for different agencies.
- Forty-six miles of state forest roads will be reviewed and maintained in compliance with 11 AAC 95.320 of the state forest practices regulations. Timber sale revenue and timber sale purchasers have provided road maintenance as part of their ongoing operations and this will continue for the major portions of the road system.
- The road system provides critical access for the Palmer Mine project which is accessed via the Porcupine Road in the state forest.
- Recreational activities of all types, both motorized and human powered, will continue on state forest lands. The community depends on these roads for personal use, berry picking, hunting, fishing, and other subsistence activities.
- The state's forests are a renewable resource and Alaska's future will depend on the development of both renewable and finite natural resources. Forestry has been a major driver in access development in many regions of the state and our road systems have facilitated other natural resource development projects.