

State of Alaska FY2027 Governor's Operating Budget

Department of Natural Resources

Department of Natural Resources

Mission

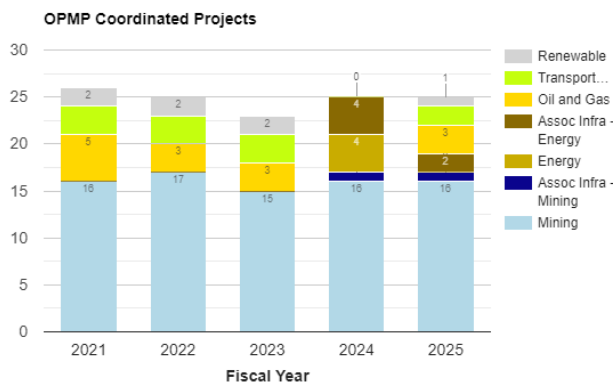
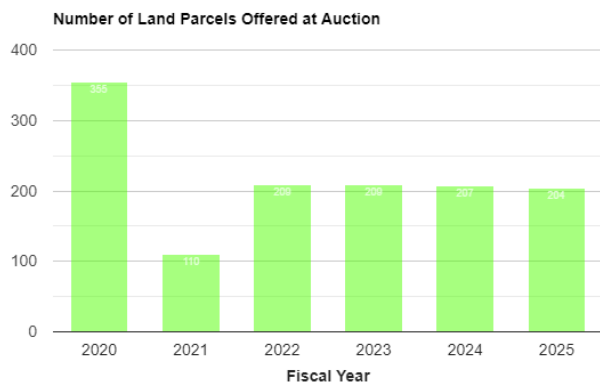
Develop, conserve and maximize the use of Alaska's natural resources consistent with the public interest. Alaska Constitution Article 8; Alaska Statute (AS) 03, AS 27, AS 38, AS 40, AS 41, AS 43.90, AS 14.30.740

Core Services (in priority order)	UGF	DGF	Other	Fed	Total	PFT	PPT	NP	% GF
1 Foster responsible commercial development and use of state land and natural resources, consistent with the public interest, for long-term wealth and employment.	26,062.9	22,381.8	32,518.4	7,252.9	88,216.0	348.2	14.5	12.9	39.3%
2 Mitigate threat to the public from natural hazards by providing comprehensive fire protection services on state, private and municipal lands, and through identifying significant geologic hazards.	30,005.9	814.0	5,594.0	1,354.8	37,768.7	95.2	182.8	3.0	25.0%
3 Provide access to state lands for public and private use, settlement, and recreation.	6,002.8	23,866.0	8,569.5	2,462.7	40,901.0	216.4	5.2	43.3	24.2%
4 Ensure sufficient data acquisition and assessment of land and resources to foster responsible resource and community development and public safety.	9,111.6	5,027.3	7,579.3	6,915.2	28,633.4	110.2	11.5	11.8	11.5%
FY2026 Management Plan	71,183.2	52,089.1	54,261.2	17,985.6	195,519.1	770.0	214.0	71.0	

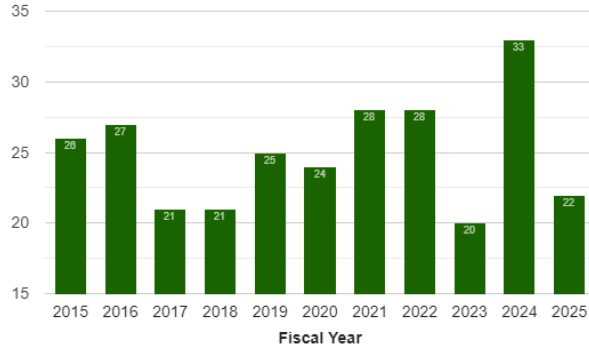
Measures by Core Service

(Additional performance information is available on the web at <https://omb.alaska.gov/results.>)

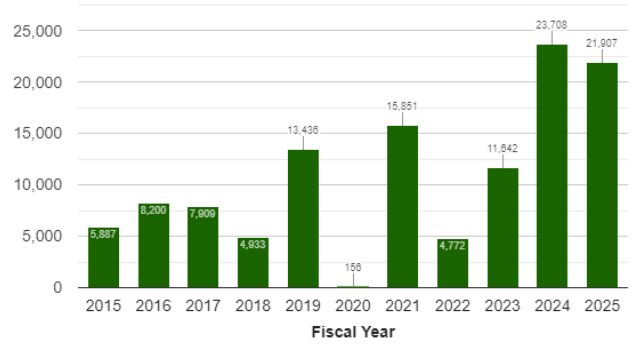
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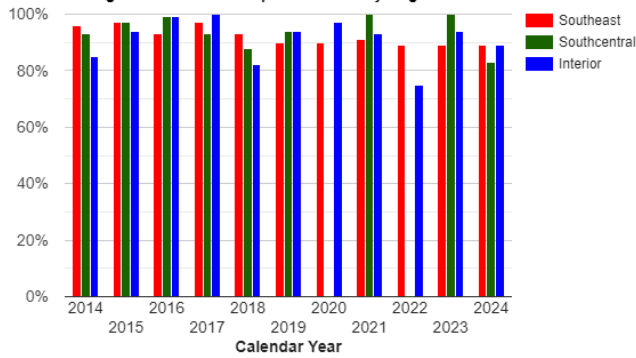
Alaskan Firms Purchasing State Timber Sales



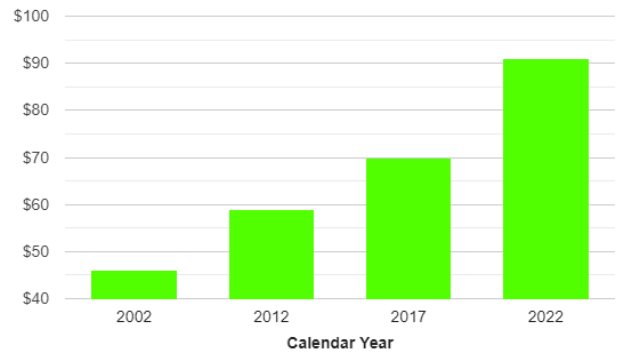
Southern Southeast Timber Sale Program: Displayed as Thousand Board Feet Sold per Fiscal Year



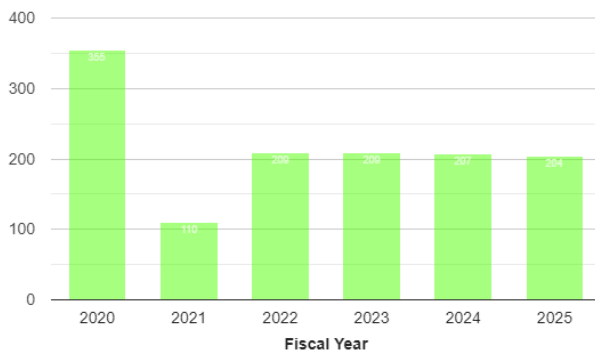
Forest Resources and Practices Act: Rating of Best Management Practices Implementation by Region



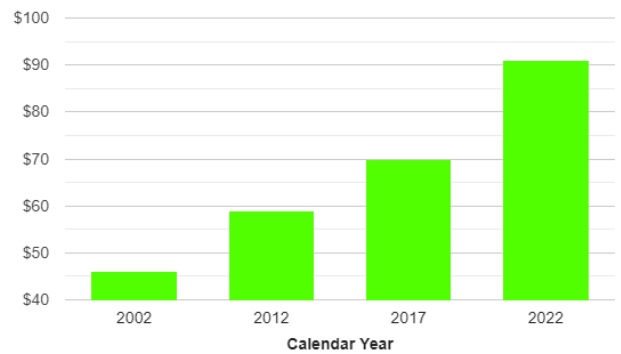
Monetary Value of Agriculture Products Sold (in millions)



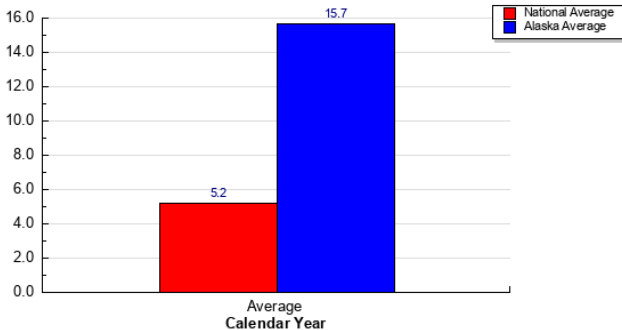
Number of Land Parcels Offered at Auction



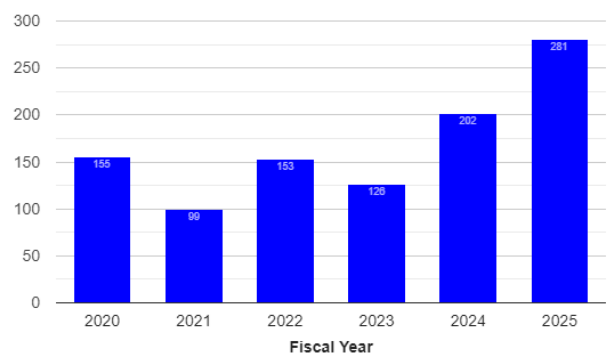
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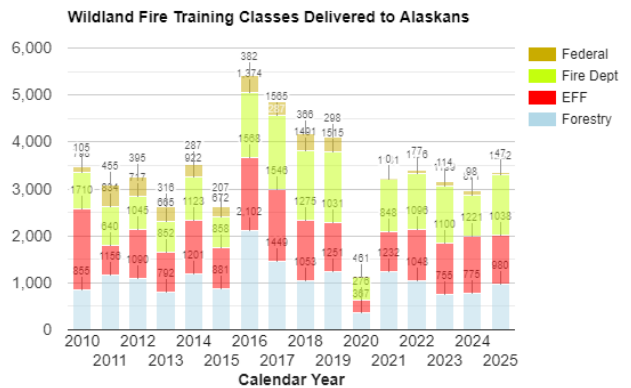
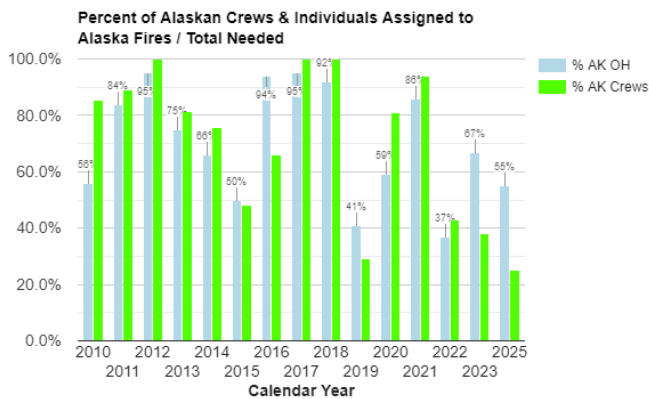
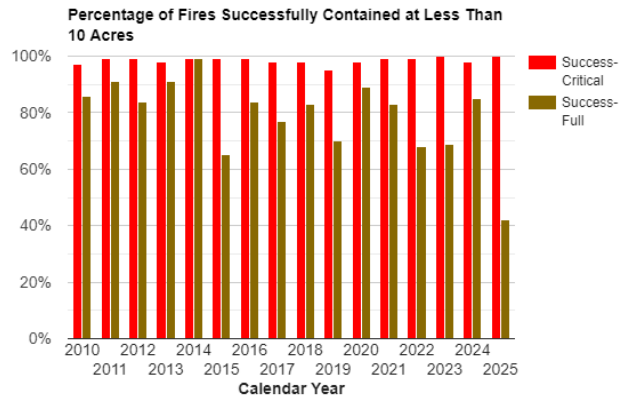
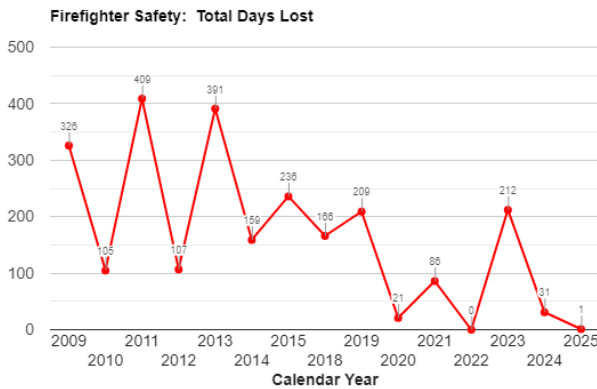
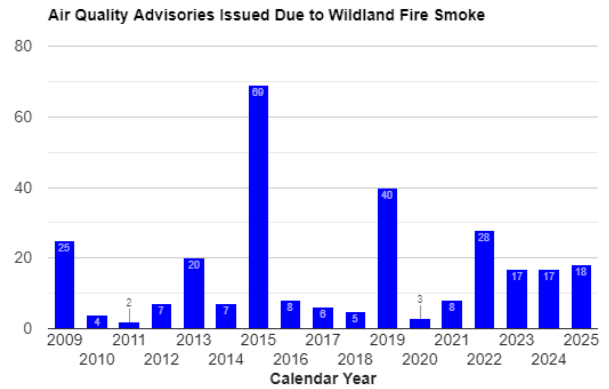
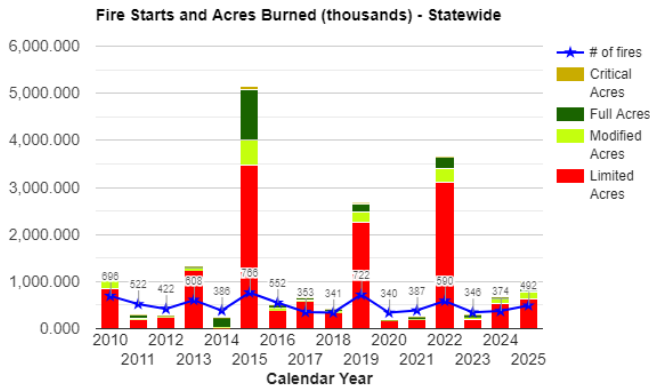
Adult Life Jacket Wear Rate Percentages Powerboats National vs. Alaska (2015-2020)

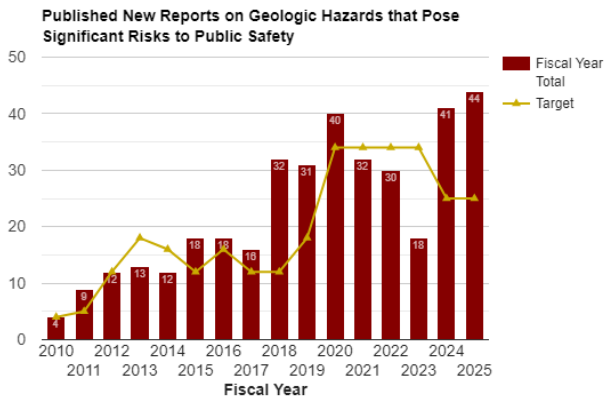


Compliance & Oversight Monitoring Actions of AS 38.35 Pipelines

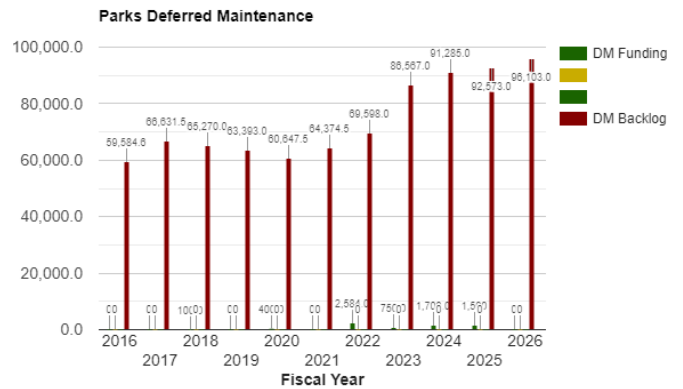
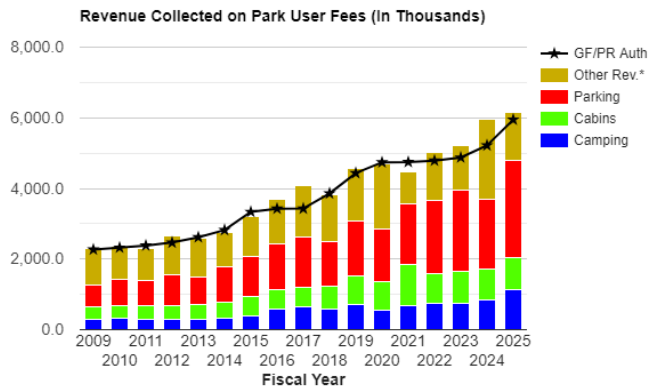
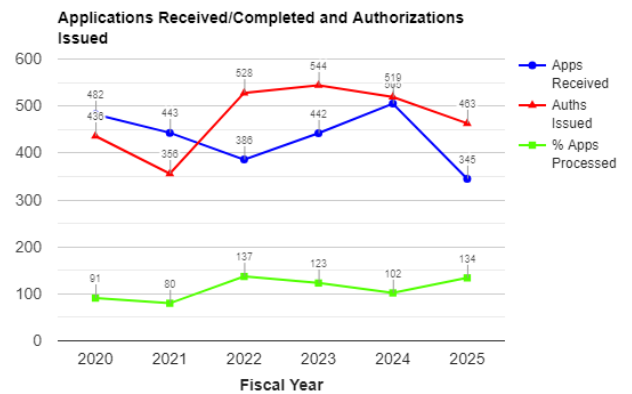
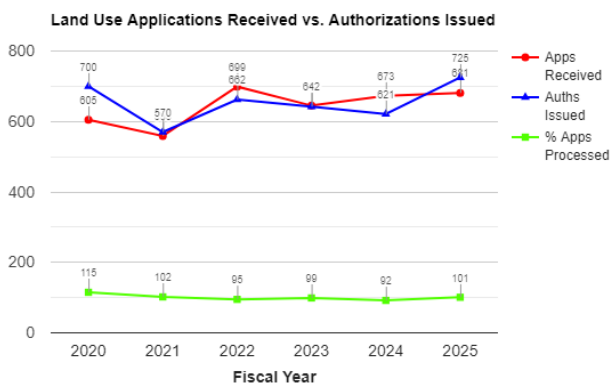


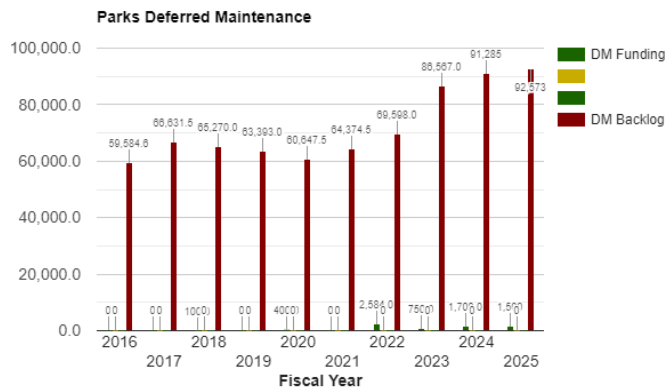
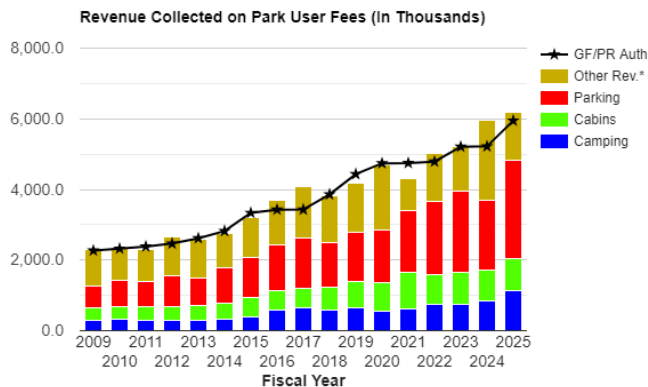
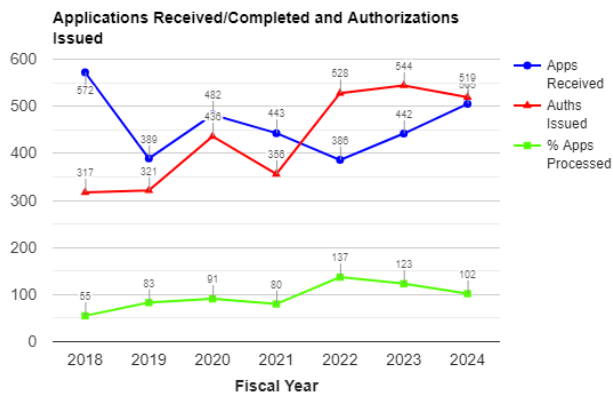
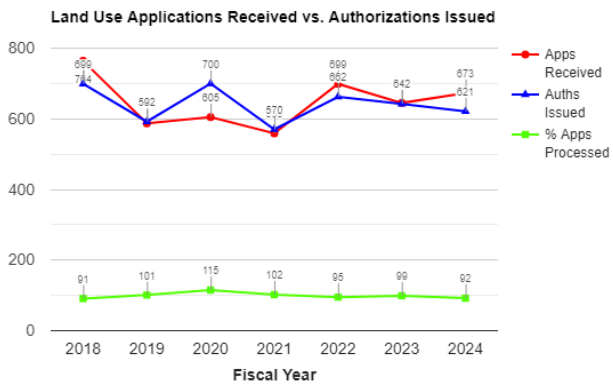
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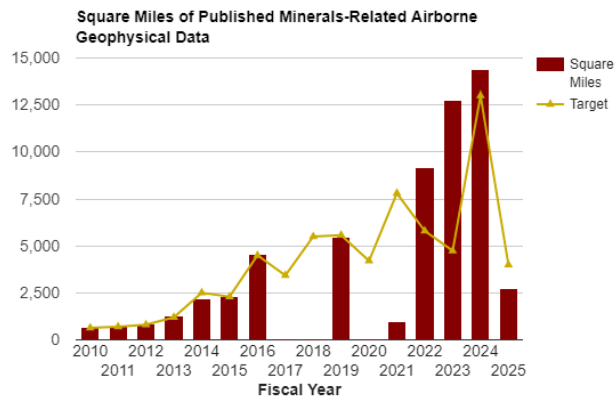
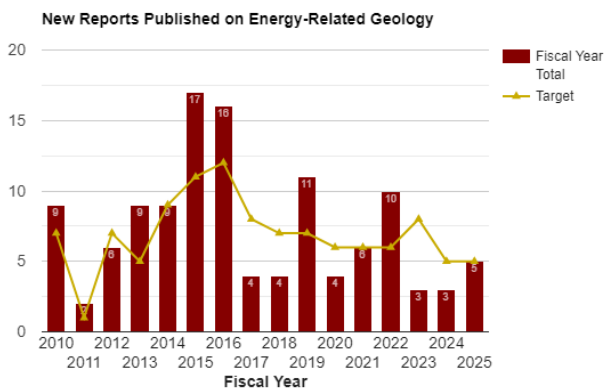


3. Provide access to state lands for public and private use, settlement, and recreation.





4. Ensure sufficient data acquisition and assessment of land and resources to foster responsible resource and community development and public safety.



Major Department Accomplishments in 2025

Foster responsible commercial development and use of State land and natural resources:

The Commissioner's Office was actively involved in assisting and supporting divisions with the accomplishments detailed in the individual component narratives and in implementing the Governor's policies across department and division programs. Critical minerals, in-state energy needs, North Slope oil production growth, timber and wildfire management, and permitting reform and efficiency have all been major areas of focus.

The Division of Oil & Gas (DOG) held five area-wide lease sales resulting in more than \$14.5 million in bonus bids and more than 420,912 acres leased. DOG authorized one lease plan of operations, four unit plans of operations, one easement, three easement amendments, two easement plan amendments, one lease development plan amendment, two miscellaneous land use permits, six land use permits, 136 tundra travel requests, 42 general permits, and 56 plans of operations amendments for activities on the North Slope and in Cook Inlet. Additionally, the DOG verified and collected \$1.8 billion in royalties, net profit share lease revenues, rents, bonus bids, unit actions, and federal payments.

The DOG initiated analysis and evaluation of an application for a new exploration license in the Yukon Flats area of the Interior of Alaska. The DOG converted one exploration license to six noncompetitive oil and gas leases.

The Division of Mining, Land and Water (DMLW) sold 169 parcels totaling 1,071 acres. The results are a combination of the annual land sale auction, year-round Over the Counter (OTC) sales, and the Remote Recreation Cabin Sites (RRCS) program's staking authorizations that made it to the purchase stage.

The DMLW completed 73 coal mine inspections during fiscal year 2025 under the Coal Regulatory program. Twelve large mine inspections were conducted during the year.

The Division of Forestry and Fire Protection's (DOF) Forest Management & Development Section (FMD) sold 27.1 million board feet in 29 new timber sales to 22 firms in FY2025. There are currently 45 firms with active timber sale contracts throughout Alaska. Additionally, the DOF sold approximately 1,355 cords of personal use firewood via 352 permits, issued mostly online.

Mitigate threats to the public from natural hazards by providing comprehensive fire protection services on State, private, and municipal lands, and through identifying significant geologic hazards:

In 2025, the DOF continued to prioritize fire preparedness through a comprehensive, year-round approach. Following the 2024 fire season, the DOF conducted after-action reviews to identify operational strengths and areas for improvement, forming work groups to address critical issues. Off-season efforts included cooperators outreach, training development, equipment refurbishment, vendor contract renewals, policy updates, and strategic fire planning. These activities laid the groundwork for a more resilient response system, supported by the successful implementation of mission-critical incentive pay, which boosted wildland firefighter staffing levels from a low of 50 percent in FY 2025 to over 90 percent in FY 2026, enabling faster and more aggressive initial attack capabilities.

During peak wildfire operations, the DOF activated statewide emergency protocols, demonstrating the strength of its preparedness infrastructure and interagency coordination. Rapid mobilization of personnel, aircraft, and equipment helped contain multiple fires that threatened communities and critical infrastructure. Training academies played a vital role in building workforce capacity. The Alaska Engine Academy adopted a "train the trainer" model, while the Basic and Intermediate Wildland Firefighter Academies focused on foundational and leadership skills, graduating 41 cadets. The Wildland Fire Administrator Academy further strengthens administrative readiness, training 11 staff in the essential system. In total, 55 cadets graduated across all academies.

The DOF also expanded its outreach and recruitment efforts throughout rural Alaskan communities. Participation in events such as the Alaska Rural Small Business Conference, the Alaska Tribal Conference on Environmental Management, and the Alaska Federation of Natives enabled direct communication with community leaders. Updated "Community Kits" provided information on training, employment, grants, and fire prevention. These initiatives are part of a broader strategy to rebuild a locally rooted Emergency Firefighter workforce, with a focus on increasing representation from rural regions and ensuring Alaskans are equipped to contribute to wildfire response and mitigation statewide.

Within the DOF, the Incident Strategic Alignment Process (ISAP) is a tool used to consider exposure and risk to personnel when developing strategies for fire management, and hazard mitigation processes are standard for incident management teams.

Provide access to State lands for public and private use, settlement, and recreation:

The Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation (DPOR) awarded 12 construction-related contracts with a combined value of over \$45 million for park maintenance and improvement projects to enable Alaskans and visitors to use and access State parks.

The DPOR staff recruited and directed 345 park volunteers who helped maintain park facilities, provided information

and assistance to park visitors and led interpretive and educational programs.

The DMLW received a disclaimer for approximately 90 percent of the submerged lands sought in the federal court involving the North Fork and Middle Fork of the Fortymile River, leaving only a small remaining segment of the North Fork in dispute.

Ensure sufficient data acquisition and assessment of land and resources to foster responsible resource and community development and public safety:

The Division of Geological & Geophysical Surveys (DGGS) Landslide Hazards Program published results of landslide susceptibility mapping for Haines and the Blackerby land parcel near Juneau and finalized the Alaska Landslide Reporter. The Alaska Landslide Reporter is a desktop or mobile application that anyone can use to report a landslide occurrence in Alaska. This application provides geologists with crucial data to further determine landslide risk and impact in Alaska.

The DGGS' flood height data and more recent social media platforms built to encourage Alaska Native communities that are prone to flooding to post documentation of high water as it occurs played a significant role in helping forecast the impacts of the October 2025 Bering Sea Storm – Typhoon Halong – which was declared a State disaster by Governor Mike Dunleavy. The DGGS' Coastal Hazards Program proved essential to National Weather Service (NWS) forecasters and is now invited by the NWS and the State Emergency Operations Center to formally contribute to future disaster declaration event summaries. In addition, the DGGS Coastal Hazards Program and the methodologies it implements received international recognition in FY2025, and the DGGS received requests from international researchers who work in other Arctic nations on best practices that the division employs when working in and with remote coastal and riverine communities.

On July 16, 2025, Alaska representatives (Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, the DGGS, and Alaska Earthquake Center) of the National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program were in Cordova conducting evacuation line workshops and planning new tsunami siren placement with community leadership when the magnitude 7.3 Sand Point earthquake occurred, triggering tsunami warnings from the National Tsunami Warning Center and notifications from the State Emergency Operations Center. Agency representatives responded to the notifications in real-time with community leadership, which proved to be an invaluable learning experience as agencies help prepare other communities to react to similar events. The program followed up with an after-action report in Yakutat the next day.

Through continued federal funding of the Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program in Interior Alaska, the DOF continues to successfully operate the Interior Alaska portion of this nationwide program and has negotiated a second Joint Venture Agreement with the Forest Service. The DOF has met the challenge of completing its “ramp up phase” and now operates the program semi-autonomously from direct United States Forest Service (USFS) involvement. As Alaska’s continuous forest census, the program monitors the status and trends of all public and private forestlands. A suite of information items is sampled at each plot including trees, soils, understory plants, and woody debris. State field crews have successfully conducted the Interior Alaska FIA program since it began in 2014, installing 2,445 plots, and have met all Forest Service quality control metrics. This season the FIA crews logged over 219 helicopter flight hours as they overcame the challenges of the remote plot locations, complex program logistics, and adverse weather.

The DGGS Alaska Geospatial Office (AGO) administers the State Open Data Geoportal and the Alaska Geospatial Council. The data and maps coordinated by the AGO are critical to local, State, and federal government operations, private investments, rural communities, and academic institutions. These data lay the foundation for economic development and public safety.

*Note: As the Department of Agriculture (DAG) was established Jan. 1, 2026, this narrative excludes the overview of the Division of Agriculture under the Department of Natural Resources. DAG's narrative will include the work of the Division of Agriculture in FY2025 and looks prospectively to work to be done in FY2027 by the new DAG.

Key Department Challenges

Maintaining core service functions with adequate staffing and continuing to provide revenue generation, public safety, and services for Alaskans.

Absorbing the increasing contractual costs from leases, core services, mainframe costs, and essential contracts into existing budget appropriations.

Keeping pace with growth in resource sector activities and major project developments (mining, oil and gas, aquatic farming, etc.) spurred by federal opportunities and efficiencies while managing headwinds in the recruitment and retention of staff.

Foster responsible commercial development and use of State land and natural resources, consistent with the public interest, for long-term wealth and employment:

Improving investment climate, increasing exploration company and investor activity, and federal cooperation are all stimulating new economic and resource development activity. This requires work to recruit, train, and retain technically qualified staff.

Despite challenges hiring qualified staff, the Office of Project Management and Permitting (OPMP) advanced existing core programs (Mining, Energy, and Federal), developed new entrepreneurial programs (Carbon Offset and Grants Assistance), and anticipates additional project activity. The OPMP capitalizes on opportunities through prioritization; optimization of staff time, resources and budget; and empowering staff in professional development.

Mitigate threats to the public from natural hazards by providing comprehensive fire protection services on State, private and municipal lands, and through identifying significant geologic hazards:

In response to national changes within the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the DOF took proactive measures to develop and implement a more robust emergency medical program, ensuring mission safety and success.

The Medical Program plays a vital role in the DOF's mission to deliver high-quality medical care in remote, resource-limited environments during wildfire suppression and related operations throughout Alaska. Fireline Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics are deployed to wildfire incidents and operational activities, providing essential emergency medical care during active fire suppression efforts and fuels mitigation projects across the state.

Rapidly increasing demands for digital information, while improving the quality, completeness, and usability of statewide geological and geophysical data continue to challenge the DGGs's ability to keep up with requests. Public demands for geologic hazards information and increases in the frequency of hazardous events continue to challenge DGGs's ability to respond in a timely manner.

Provide access to State lands for public and private use, settlement, and recreation:

Outdoor activities that rely on park infrastructure are growing in popularity and have been increasing park visitation. This trend creates challenges for park staff to keep up with user needs, both from an on-ground and administrative standpoint.

The DPOR has taken on management of several areas in the Northern Region (Delta units) due to the inability of concessionaires to make a profit managing the facility. This has continued to have operational challenges. It is the DPOR's goal to provide access to all state park land and developed facilities.

Defending State ownership interests through navigability and RS 2477, Quiet Title Action (QTA) lawsuits will continue to be of critical importance. The DMLW was actively involved in federal and State court litigation on thirteen rivers and lakes. The DMLW provided notice pursuant to the Federal QTA of its intention to sue the federal government on the Kobuk River, Sarkar Lake, and other waters.

The DMLW undertook additional State navigability determinations for numerous State waters: including, but not limited to, determinations for all navigable waters located within National Park Service (NPS) areas, USFS areas, and several United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) areas, including over two thousand rivers and lakes, which are included in a public interactive map on the State website.

Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2027

The DGGS will focus on publication of recently acquired petroleum geology data for the North Slope. These reports will help evaluate oil and gas potential from conventional and unconventional resource plans.

The DOG will drive operations toward a more business-like and business-oriented approach aiming to timely meet producer and operator needs. The DOG will continue updating the electronic Project Management System for tracking, reviewing, and delivering responses to applicants.

As one of the Governor's priorities, to increase active management of our forest resources, the DOF will focus on improving access to those resources, as well as on the staffing needed to execute management activities on forested lands including forest health and wildfire mitigation issues, including holistic strategies to restore these assets and establish their value for Alaskans in the long-term.

The DPOR will work to grow strategic partnerships and attract private sector funding. Specifically, the DPOR will work to consolidate and streamline "friends" groups in different regions, and work with the non-profit sector to set up potential private sector funding sources and endowments that can support park activities and upkeep into the future.

The DMLW will continue its work on making navigability determinations for all navigable waters falling within the boundaries of all the USFWS (US Fish and Wildlife Service) areas as well as the BLM (Bureau of Land Management) areas like the work done on navigable waters within the National Park Service (NPS) areas and Tongass National Forest.

The Division of Agriculture will be moved to the Department of Agriculture, which was established under Executive Order 137 and effective January 1, 2026. Refer to the DAG narrative for specifics on the Division of Agriculture's accomplishments, challenges, and changes in results to be delivered in FY2027.

Contact Information	
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