

Natural Disaster Prevention & Response Budget Overview

House Finance DNR Budget Subcommittee



Presented by:
Deputy Commissioner John Crowther
Deputy Commissioner Brent Goodrum
Alaska Department of Natural Resources
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Agenda



Legislative Finance Division (LFD), Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Significant Budget Issues 9-11:

- Issue 9: Division of Geological and Geophysical Surveys (DGGS), Natural Disaster Hazard Assessment Studies
- Issue 10: DGGS, Response and Prevention Team for Natural Disaster Emergency Responses and Public Outreach
- Issue 11: Division of Forestry and Fire Protection (DOF&FP), Improve Maintenance of Fire Fighting Fleet
- Fire Suppression Fund: DOF&FP, Overview



Issue 9: Hazard Assessments

Alaska Statute (AS) 41.08.020: Determine the potential of Alaskan land for production of metals, minerals, fuels, and geothermal resources ... **and the potential geologic hazards to buildings, roads, bridges, and other installations and structures ...**



Mount Spurr on February 7, 2025 (credit: Matt Loewen)



2020 Beach Road landslide in Haines (credit: Martin Larsen)



Issue 10: Hazard Response Increment

FY2026 Request: \$648.4 (\$ in thousands, unrestricted general fund)

- Two, five-person response/proactive hazard assessments
- Training
- Critical equipment and maintenance
- Two permanent, full-time (journey-level) scientific support staff



Photos:
DGGs 2023
Wrangell
landslide
response

Issue 10: Hazard Response and Critical Data



Critical data can be collected during disaster response. For example, during the 2024 Juneau flood DGGs collected data that will help develop a model to assess the risk of future outburst floods and inform planning and management efforts in Juneau.

This included:

- Post-event aerial surveys
- Glacier thickness, velocity, and mass balance measurements
- Modeling



Glacial outburst flood from the Suicide Basin and Mendenhall Glacier, August 6, 2024

Issue 11: Fire Equipment Maintenance



FY2026 Proposed Governor's Budget:

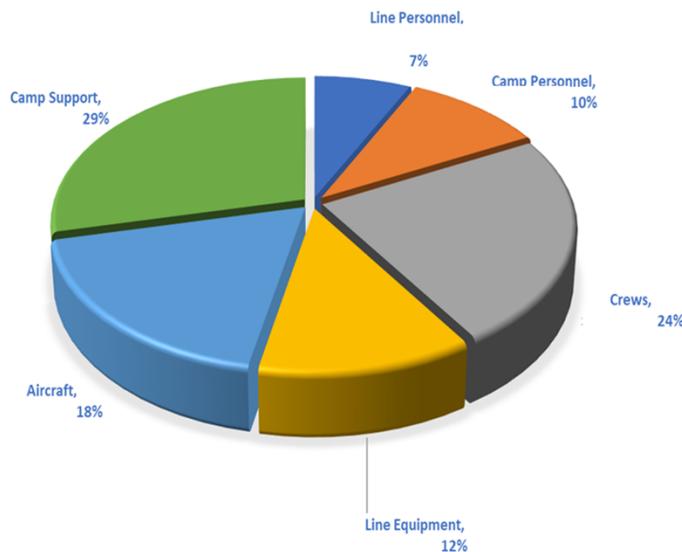
- Add Statutory Designated Program Receipt (SDPR) authority in Fire Suppression Fund: \$1.5 million
- Allows State to capture reimbursements from cooperators for the use of firefighting equipment (fire engines, aircraft) to address ongoing wildland fire fleet maintenance





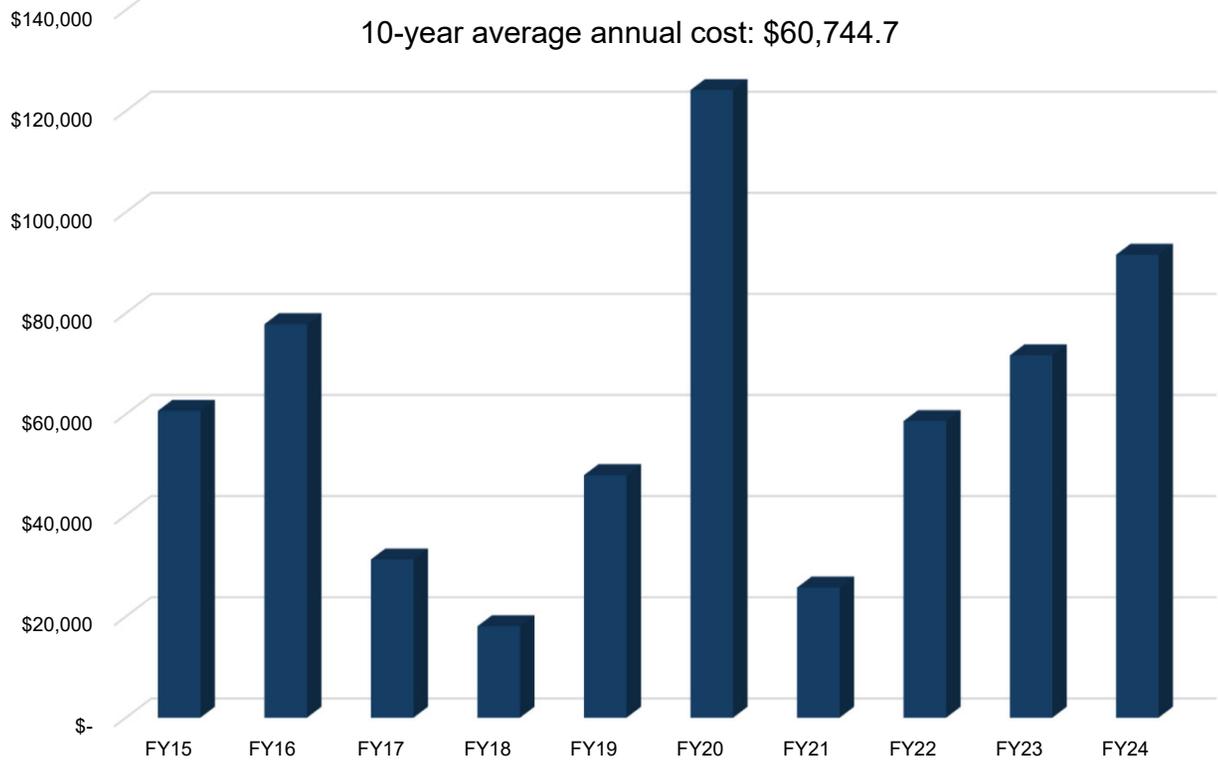
Fire Suppression Fund

Average Incident Cost Breakout



10-Year Fire & Prepositioning Costs

10-year average annual cost: \$60,744.7



Thank You



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