

# Natural Disaster Prevention & Response Budget Overview

## House Finance DNR Budget Subcommittee



Presented by:  
Deputy Commissioner John Crowther  
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Alaska Department of Natural Resources  
February 19, 2025



# 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



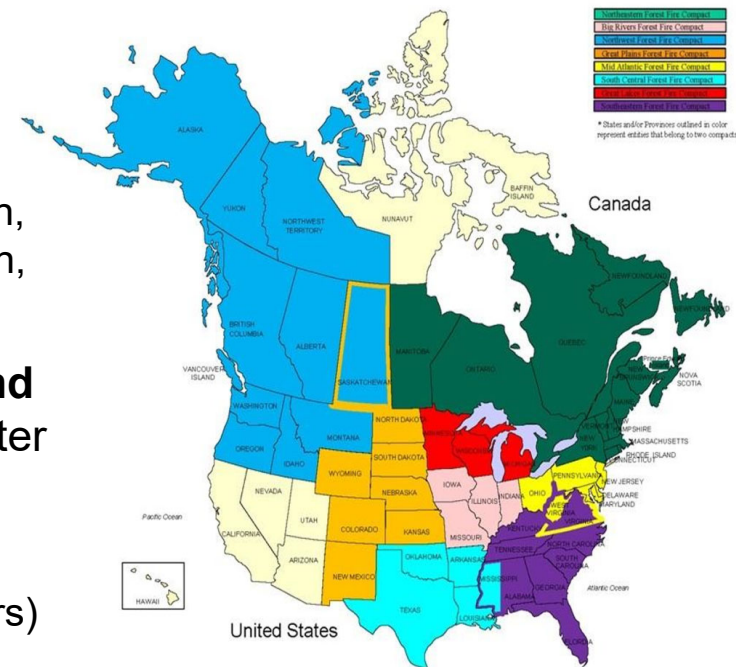
Glacial outburst flood from the Suicide Basin and Mendenhall Glacier, August 6, 2024



# Issue 11: Fire Agreements and Compacts

The state can utilize three different agreements/compacts when importing firefighting resources that outline billing methods and procedures:

- **State to State Agreements:** When utilizing “state to state” agreements Alaska and the other states bill each other for firefighting effort expenses
- **Northwest Compact (NWC):** When utilizing the NWC agreement, parties of the agreement bill each other for fire suppression efforts
  - (Alberta, British Columbia, Northwest Territories, Saskatchewan, Yukon Territories, Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, and Hawaii)
- **Alaska Master Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement:** When utilizing the master agreement, the national ordering system is used
  - (DNR, Alaska Fire Service, US Forest Service, National Park Service, US Fish & Wildlife Service, and Bureau of Indian Affairs)





# Issue 11: Fire Equipment Maintenance



## **FY2026 Proposed Governor's Budget:**

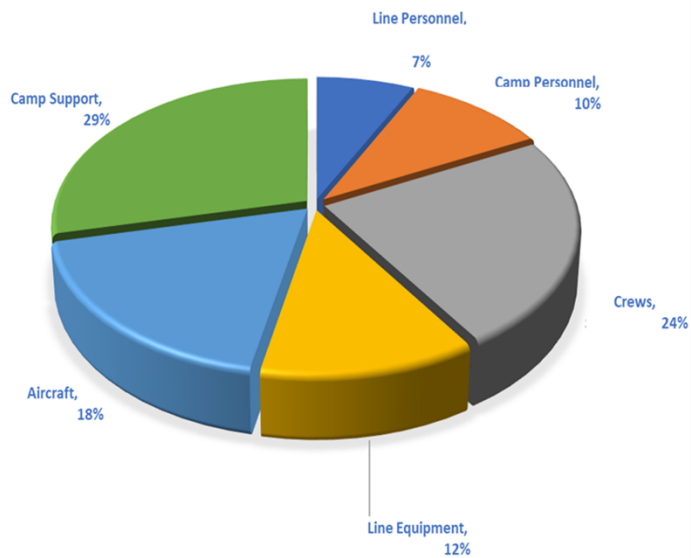
- Add Statutory Designated Program Receipt (SDPR) authority in Fire Suppression Fund: \$1.5 million
- Allows State to capture reimbursements from cooperators for the use of firefighting equipment (fire engines, aircraft) to address ongoing wildland fire fleet maintenance





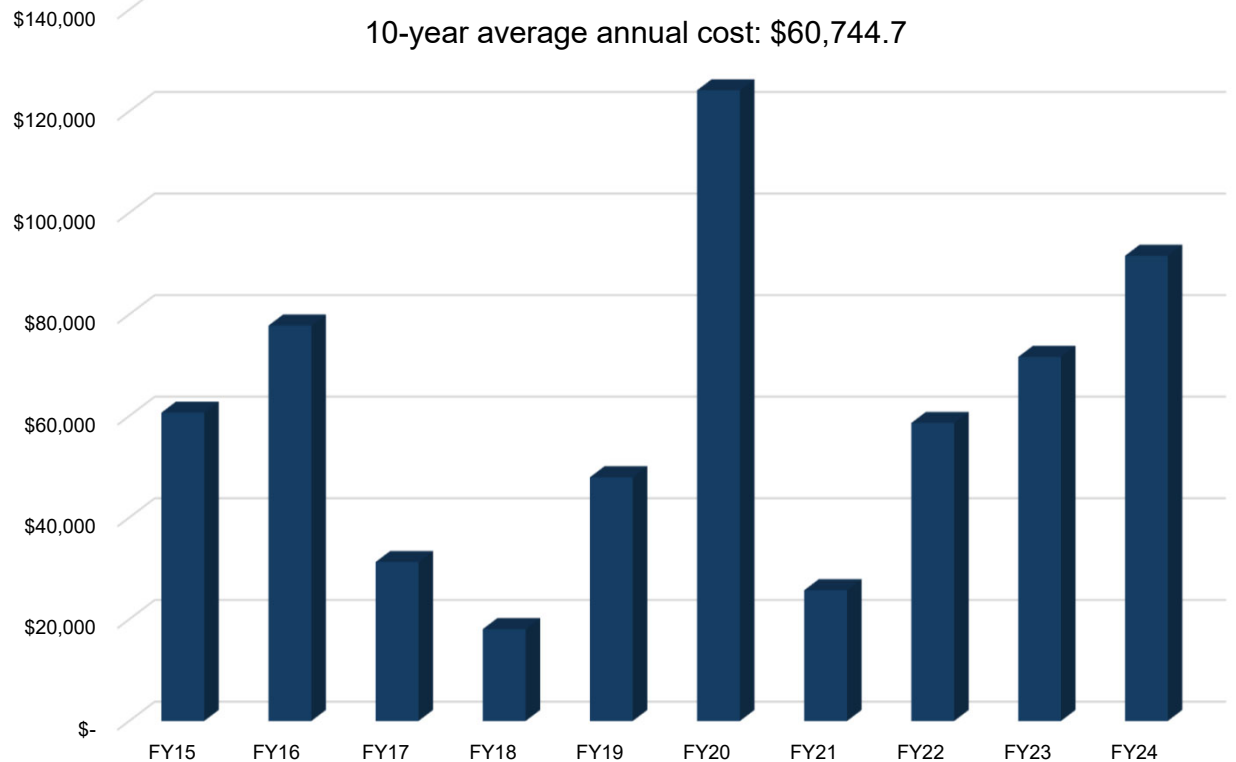
# Fire Suppression Fund

**Average Incident Cost Breakout**



**10-Year Fire & Prepositioning Costs**

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





# Thank You



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