

## DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

### **39. Fire Suppression, Land & Water Resources / Forest Management & Development** Operating/Capital Budget (CCS HB 268 (Corrected))

*It is the intent of the legislature that the agency shall provide a report detailing salvage sales, emergency sales, and expedited sales of timber, including the timeline of recent and pending sales, as well as acreage sold and resulting state revenues. This report shall be provided to the Co-chairs of Finance and Legislative Finance Division by December 20, 2024.*

The Division of Forestry & Fire Protection (DOF) has not sold any expedited sales under the new authorization provided for in HB 104 and the amendments made to AS 38.05.117. The DOF is still working with the Department of Law to develop regulations for the amendments made to this statute. However, the DOF has made seven salvage timber sales available under AS 38.05.120. Included in those seven sales was 194.9 acres of burned spruce timber. The resulting State revenue from those sales was \$16,779.15.

The Best Interest Finding and Forest Land Use Plan for these sales were finalized on September 12, 2024. The Appeal Period ended on October 4, 2024, and no appeals were filed by that date; the final decision also went into effect on October 4, 2024. The timber sales were sold on November 1, 2024, in an oral outcry auction.

### **40. Fire Suppression, Land & Water Resources / Fire Suppression Preparedness** Operating/Capital Budget (CCS HB 268 (Corrected))

#### **PARTIAL COMPLIANCE**

*It is the intent of the legislature that the Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Fire Protection provide to the Co-Chairs of Finance and the Legislative Finance Division at the conclusion of the calendar year 2024 fire season an estimate of supplemental funding needed for the remainder of FY 2025. At the time of the Governor's FY 2025 supplemental budget submittal, the Department should also provide to the Co-Chairs of Finance and the Legislative Finance Division the Fire Cost Summary report providing a detailed breakdown of actual and projected expenditures and reimbursements.*

The Division of Forestry & Fire Protection (DOF) will provide wildland fire cost estimates for the preceding fire season, to the Co-chairs of Finance and the Legislative Finance Division, between December 20, 2024, and the start of the regular legislative session. This will allow the DOF to obtain projected fire cost estimates, through the cross-billing process, from all cooperating agencies.

The estimate provided to the Co-chairs of Finance and the Legislative Finance Division will include costs to close out fire season 2024 and projected costs for the start of fire season 2025, both of which fall within fiscal year 2025.

**Legislative Fiscal Analyst Comment:** The report provided on December 20, 2024 does not include the projected costs that will be incurred in the second half of FY2025. Last year's version of this report included a projected total of \$22.0 million for the second half of the fiscal year, including \$7 million for Spring Start-up costs. The report is included as **Attachment 11**.