

Executive Order 136

Establishing the Department of Agriculture

House Finance Committee



Presented by:
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Alaska Department of Natural Resources
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Alaska Agriculture: Status Report



- Robust Alaska agriculture is a long-held vision
- Hardy Alaskans are farming
 - 2022 national census: 1,173 Alaska farms and ranches produced about \$39.7 million in crop value and \$51.2 million in animal production
- So much more potential – with dedicated, focused, expert support
- Why grow agriculture?
 - Greater food security and independence for Alaskans
 - Further develop an important economic sector (jobs, value chain benefits)



Executive Order 136



- Establishes the Alaska Department of Agriculture
- Transitions in full the Division of Agriculture from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to the new department
 - Statutory responsibilities, functions, do not change
- Provides transitionary measures for seamless reorganization
- Effective July 1, 2025

Vision



- Governor's overarching goal: increase focus on agriculture and food security with a dedicated department and leadership
- Focus will help develop a robust, durable state agricultural policy, including a strategic plan with an implementation roadmap
- Continuation of the Governor's budget and legislative policy actions following the COVID-19 pandemic to enhance food security in Alaska
- Aligns with top recommendations of task forces and stakeholders
- New department is first step to provide solid foundation for future growth

Improved results for Alaskans



- Robust, durable agriculture policy with implementation plan
- Stronger strategic alignment with stakeholder groups, Alaska agriculture entities
- More consistent, proactive interaction with federal partners
- Cabinet-level agriculture advocacy
- Opportunity for greater legislative focus and attention



Today's Department of Natural Resources

(\$ in thousands)



- 1,054 employees (767 PFT, 215 PPT, 72 NP) across seven divisions, two offices
- Led by commissioner supported by two deputies
- Statewide offices, programs and sites
- FY2025 Management Plan budget (all funds): \$173,399.3
- DNR returns \$21 to the state treasury for every UGF dollar appropriated



PFT: Permanent full-time NP: Non-permanent
PPT: Permanent part-time UGF: Unrestricted general fund

Today's Division of Agriculture



(\$ in thousands)

- Division director
- Programs separated into Agriculture Development and Plant Materials Center sections
- Employees: 37 total (32 PFT and 5 PPT)
- FY2025 Management Plan: \$7,176.2 all funds
- Headquarters in Palmer

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Today's Division of Agriculture



- Inspections, certifications
- Farm, production loans through Agricultural Revolving Loan Fund
- Alaska Grown and other promotion (state, national, international)
- Agricultural land sales / leases support
- Administers federal grants to Alaskans
- FFA program
- Seed storage and production, varietal trials
- Seed cleaning services rendered
- Revegetation and erosion control consulting
- Industrial hemp regulation
- Invasive plant, pest management

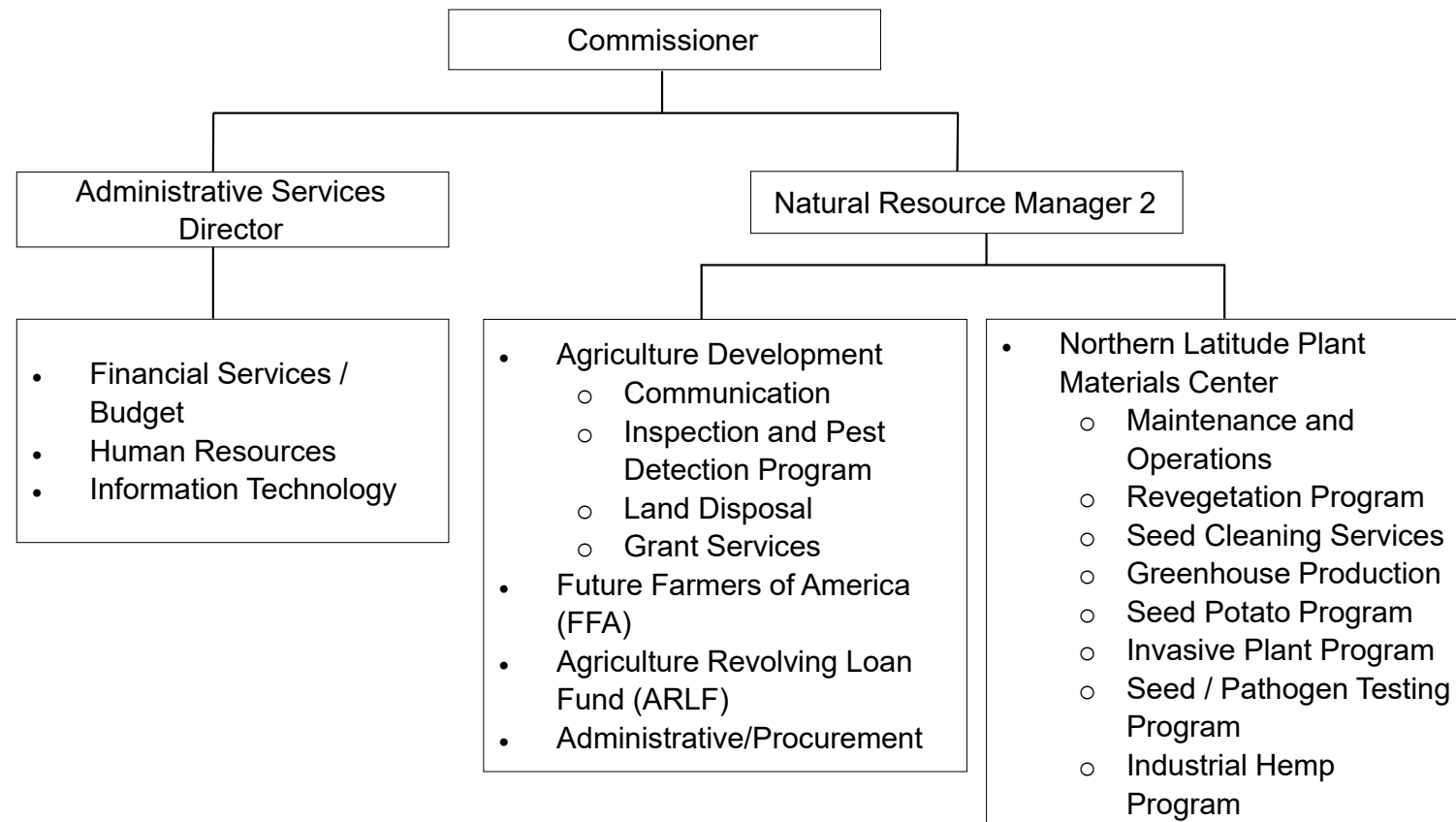


Tomorrow's Department of Agriculture

(\$ in thousands)



- Responsible but simple organizational structure
- Primed for build-out over time with increased programming, responsibilities
- Employees: 39 total (34 permanent full-time and five permanent part-time)
- Cost-neutral, position-neutral
- Headquarters in Palmer or Anchorage



Reclassifications

(\$ in thousands)



Allocation	Current Position	Current Position Cost (Salary/Benefits)	New Position	Total Cost (Salary/Benefits)	Difference	Bargaining Unit
Agriculture	Director, Division of Agriculture	\$237.2	Commissioner	\$286.1	\$48.9	XP
Agriculture	Natural Resource Technician 3	\$94.8	HR Consultant 3	\$144.3	\$49.5	GG
Agriculture	Agronomist 1	\$136.1	Administrative Services Director	\$216.1	\$80.0	GP
DNR	Wildfire/Resource Technician 4	\$103.2	Administrative Operations Manager 1	\$179.1	\$75.9	GP
DNR	Fire Management Officer	\$127.1	Microcomputer/ Network Technician 2	\$111.0	(\$16.1)	SS

- Existing Division of Agriculture Director reclassified as Commissioner for the new Department of Agriculture
- Two vacant PCNs at Division of Agriculture reclassified as Human Resource Consultant 3 and Administrative Services Director for the new Department of Agriculture
- Two vacant PCNs and funding at DNR transferred to the new Department of Agriculture and reclassified to Administrative Operations Manager 1 and Microcomputer/Network Technician 2
- DNR will continue to provide support staff for the Administrative Services functions
- The incremental \$238.2 cost of the reclassified positions will be absorbed by the new Department of Agriculture



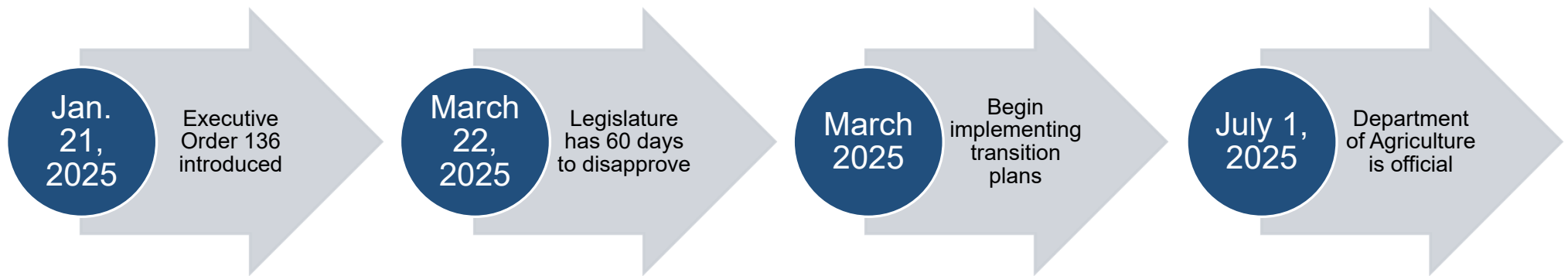
Costs Comparison (\$ in thousands)

	DNR/Division of Agriculture FY2025 Management Plan	DNR/Division of Agriculture FY2026 Governor's Budget	Department of Agriculture DNR positions transfer and Micro-Grant for Food Security, Governor's Amend	Department of Agriculture FY2026 Total Estimated Budget
UGF	\$3,064.0	\$3,125.5	*\$205.2	\$3,330.7
DGF	\$1,969.9	\$1,992.2	\$0.0	\$1,992.2
Other	\$329.4	\$330.4	*\$15.8	\$346.2
Federal	\$1,812.9	\$1,817.9	*\$2,209.2	\$4,027.1
Total	\$7,176.2	\$7,266.0	\$2,430.2	\$9,696.2
Full-Time Positions	32	32	**2	34
Part-Time Positions	5	5	0	5
Total	37	37	0	39

*\$205.2, \$15.8, and \$9.2 of the \$2,209.2 are 2 transferred positions from DNR to new department; DNR budget will include corresponding decrement

**Two positions are transferred from DNR to new department (not new positions)

Timeline



Transition work includes:



- Stakeholder engagement / education
- Employee town hall
- Prepare and submit documents for position reclassifications
- Post, hire and train new positions
- Governor appoints new commissioner
- Public-facing website updated and launched
- Update signage, public-facing access points on buildings
- Work with the Division of Finance on changes to Integrated Resource Information System (IRIS)
- Information Technology transitions
- Plan inter-departmental coordination with DNR / lands
- July 1, 2025 – Department of Agriculture is legal operating entity

Executive Order 136 – Sectional Analysis



Section	Pg	Provision
1	1	Uncodified law with Governor's findings in support of establishing a new department
2-21	2-8	Amendments to Title 3, Agriculture, Animals, and Food, effectuating the reorganization
22	8	Amendment to Title 9, Code of Civil Procedure, effectuating the reorganization
23	8	Amendment to Title 37, Public Finance, effectuating the reorganization
24-29	8-12	Amendments to Title 38, Public Land, effectuating the reorganization
30-36	13-15	Amendments to Title 41, Public Resources, effectuating the reorganization
37-40	15-17	Amendments to Title 44, State Government, effectuating the reorganization
41	17	Repeal of 3 statutes, effectuating the reorganization
42	17	Revisor's instructions to conform titles and catchlines
43	18	Transition measures to ensure division employees, board members, legal proceedings, contracts, regulations, records, equipment and so forth are carried forward to the new department
44	18	Sets a July 1, 2025, effective date

Thank You



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