



House Finance Subcommittee February 14, 2024 Inquiries Department of Natural Resources

Q. Rep Rauscher – When and where will the first lumber grading class be?

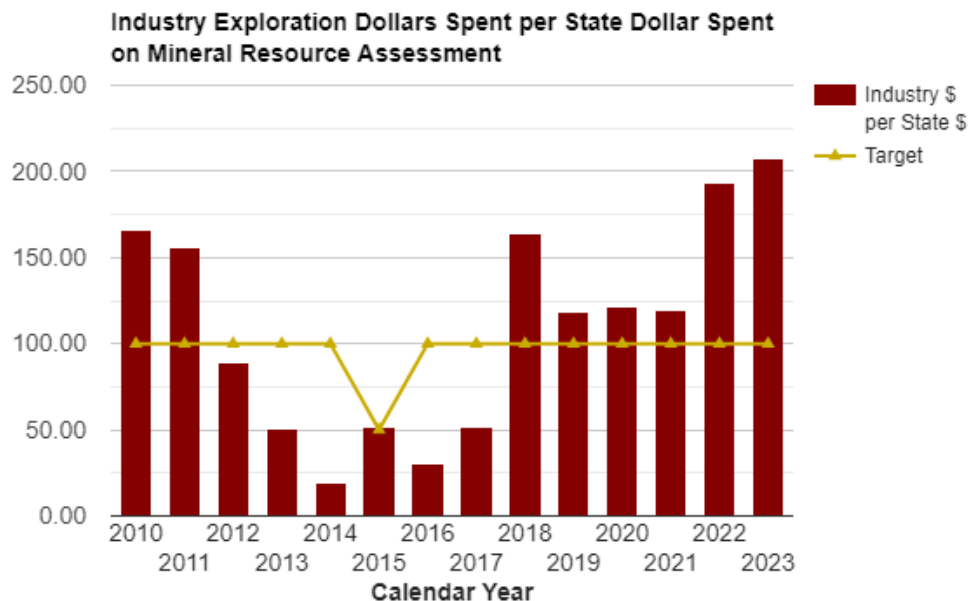
DNR Response:

The Division of Forestry & Fire Protection plans to hold the first lumber grading class either in Palmer or Wasilla this summer (potentially in July).

Q. Rep Rauscher – How do geophysical surveys ‘pencil out’ and how do you quantify the return on the dollars we invest in producing them?

DNR Response:

DGGS doesn’t have a direct way to quantify the return on dollars the State of Alaska (SOA) is investing in geophysical surveying. However, it is indirectly measured by tracking industry exploration dollars spent per State dollar spent on Mineral Resource Assessment work, which includes geophysical surveying, geologic mapping, and geochemical sampling for mineral-resource assessment and knowledge transfer (see figure below).



Industry has stated that existing SOA-funded geoscience datasets directly led them to the discovery of more than 22 million ounces of gold in the Livengood and Pogo areas. Existing Alaska datasets are heavily used by the mineral industry as evidenced by the number of downloads from the DGGS website, citations in company news releases, and industry feedback.

Q. Rep Saddler – Can you provide additional context on the implementation of seasonal compensation health insurance extensions for seasonal employees in the Division of Forestry & Fire Protection?

DNR Response:

DNR received an increment in FY2023 to support this important initiative. A letter of agreement was established in April 2023 to provide health care benefits for permanent seasonal wildland firefighters to provide access to health insurance benefits during the off season.