

Department of Natural Resources

FY26 Midyear Status Report

Item No.	Appropriation / Allocation	Description	Amount / Fund Source	LFD Questions
1	Fire Suppression, Land & Water Resources / Mining, Land & Water	Denied Request to Add Two Natural Resource Specialist Positions to Address Increased Broadband Easement Applications (FY26-27)	N/A	A request for \$306.0 UGF and two positions was denied. Please describe the current workload of processing broadband easement applications. Are applications still being processed in a reasonable amount of time or have waiting times increased as predicted? Has the agency received any complaints of delayed processing?
Agency Response				
Currently, there are 15 broadband easement applications at various stages in the process. The applications vary greatly in complexity and time needed to bring them to completion. Our broadband cases follow the same 8-10 month timeline we advertise for all other easement cases, but they are being prioritized by staff. Since they are prioritized, they are being processed in a reasonable amount of time, so long as the application is complete and does not require later revisions. However, this may lead to delays in adjudicating other types of easement applications. We have not received any complaints about delays in processing.				
2	Fire Suppression, Land & Water Resources / Mining, Land & Water	Big Game Guide Permit Program (SB 97)	Total: \$341.6 \$341.6 GF/Prgm (DGF) 2 PFT Positions Inc	Have these new positions been recruited for and filled? Please provide details of progress and the hiring date. Please provide an update on the program implementation. Has the Department established any guide concession areas/permits to date? Was the agency able to generate the program receipts needed to fund these positions?
Agency Response				
The position description for one position is with the Division of Personnel for review and will be recruited for as soon as it is approved and a hiring waiver is granted by the Governor's Office. The position description for the other position is still being drafted. We have been informally liaising with the Big Game Commercial Services Board and the Alaska Professional Hunters Association to gather input concerning program regulations. However, the Board of Game has yet to establish any guide concession areas for which permits could be issued. Therefore, we have not generated any revenue to date to support this program.				
3	Fire Suppression, Land & Water Resources / Forest Management & Development	Add UGF to Replace Expiring CIP and Federal Funds Supporting 4 Foresters, 5 GIS Analysts, and 3 Equipment Operators	Total: \$218.8 \$218.8 Gen Fund (UGF) Inc	The agency originally requested \$437.6 for this purpose. Was the agency able to retain all employees affected by this request? Were any services reduced or eliminated as a result of the reduced level of funding?

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	Agency Response DOF was able to retain the positions. The four foresters continue to be 100% funded by federal funds. The federal funding for these positions remains a concern for DOF. The \$218.8 was applied to the GIS analysts and 3 equipment operators.			
4	Fire Suppression, Land & Water Resources / Forest Management & Development	Add One Forester, One Engineer/ Architect, and One Accounting Tech to Support Development of New Lands for Timber Sales	Total: \$420.4 \$420.4 Timber Rcp (DGF) 3 PFT Positions Inc	Have these new positions been recruited for and filled? Please provide details of progress and the hiring date.
	Agency Response The Accounting Technician position was recruited and hired eff. Dec 22, 2025. The Position Approval Form was approved, and a training plan and position description is being developed for the Engineering position. This is needed before the position can be recruited. The Position Approval Form was approved and we are developing the position description and training plan for the Haines Forester position and updating the position description for the supervisor of this position.			
5	Fire Suppression, Land & Water Resources / Forest Management & Development	Add Authority for Anticipated Denali Commission Grant to Perform Forest Management Activities on Private Lands	Total: \$800.0 \$800.0 Stat Desig (Other) IncOTI	Was the Department awarded this grant? If so, please detail what activities and contracts have been initiated with these funds.
	Agency Response The federal agency had delays and was not awarded the grant to date, though it remains a possibility.			
6	Fire Suppression, Land & Water Resources / Geological & Geophysical Surveys	Increase Federal Receipt Authority for Natural Disaster Hazard Assessment Studies	Total: \$2,200.0 \$2,200.0 Fed Rcpts (Fed) Inc	Was the Department awarded this grant? If so, please detail what activities and contracts have been initiated with these funds.

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		The Division anticipates spending about \$1,834.0 of Federal Receipts from this \$2,200.0 of authorization in FY26, of which \$1,668.0 is awarded or imminent and \$166.0 is not yet awarded. Of these federal operating funds to be expended, \$792.0 is awarded from the Department of the Interior's U.S. Geological Survey Landslide Hazards Program and about \$415.5 is awarded for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Cooperating Technical Partner hazard assessment projects in Wrangell, Anchorage, and statewide. The remainder of the FY26 federal funds include a variety of U.S. Department of Interior, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Department of Energy, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency projects focused on geologic hazard assessment, mineral resources, renewable energy, and geologic data management. Contracts paid from the Federal Receipts are primarily for logistics such as helicopter flights for travel and data collection.		
7	Fire Suppression, Land & Water Resources / Geological & Geophysical Surveys	Assessment of Alaska's Critical and Essential Minerals, SB 118 (Ch 45 SLA 24)	Total: \$45.0 \$45.0 Gen Fund (UGF) IncOTI	Is the Department on track to deliver this assessment by the January 20th deadline as outlined in SLA 24, SB 118?
	Agency Response			
		The Division is on track to deliver the assessment by January 20, 2026.		
8	Fire Suppression, Land & Water Resources / Fire Suppression Preparedness	Fire Suppression Emergency Declarations	Total: \$55,000.0 \$55,000.0 Gen Fund (UGF)	The Governor has released two FY2026 Emergency Declarations of \$30 million and \$25 million. Was there any lapse from the FY25 Supplemental after the late spring season, and was that factored into the Emergency Declarations?
	Agency Response			
		No funds from the FY25 Supplemental lapsed as the amount requested was based on actual pending payables at the time, and an average spring startup cost. Additionally, with the new Fire Suppression Fund, if funds were to lapse, it would stay in the fund for future use.		
9	Agriculture / Agricultural Development	Agriculture Micro Grants for Food Security	Total: \$2,200.0 \$2,200.0 Fed Rcpts (Fed) Inc	Was the agency able to disburse the full FY25 supplemental grant funds of \$3.2 million to recipients? Please provide/attach a list of micro grant recipients and amounts from FY25 and FY26 to date.

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	<p>Agency Response</p> <p>The Division is nearing completion of contracting for the FY23 Micro Grant Food Security Program (MGFSP) (\$3.2 Million in budget FY25) and disbursing sub-grantees their 50% advance payment so that they can begin their projects. So far the Division has disbursed approximately \$1.248 Million. The grant application was held from 9/27/24 - 11/26/24. The review of applications was delayed for several months due to the Federal pause on grant programs while they underwent DOGE review. Once the Division has completed contracting, the list of all granted applications will be made available on the Division website. The Division requested a supplemental appropriation for this grant award as we need the entire amount to set up the award, program coding, and encumber funds. These grants cover multiple budget FYs. Each MGFSP award year is a four year performance period for the State. In addition, the Division is currently processing approximately 500 close outs payments for the FY22 MGFSP whose projects ended on 8/31/25. The Division still has sub-grantee contracts for FY21 and FY22 from a spring 2024 competition cycle that are expected to end by 1/30/26 and</p>			