



# Department of Natural Resources

## Division of Forestry

Division Overview and FY2016 Budget

House Finance Subcommittee

February 24, 2015

# Forestry's Mission



We proudly serve Alaskans through forest management and wildland fire protection.

# Forestry Programs

## ❑ Resources

- Forest Management
- Forest Practices (FRPA)
- Stewardship
- Health
- Community Forestry



## ❑ Fire & Aviation

- Fire Preparedness
- Fire Suppression
- State Fire Assistance
- Volunteer Fire Assistance





# Forest Resources Program

- ☐ Support jobs in timber harvesting and processing.
- ☐ Manage forest sustainably on state land.
- ☐ Protect water quality and fish habitat during forest operations on all non-Federal land.
- ☐ Provide technical forestry assistance to communities, private landowners, agencies, fire departments, and others.



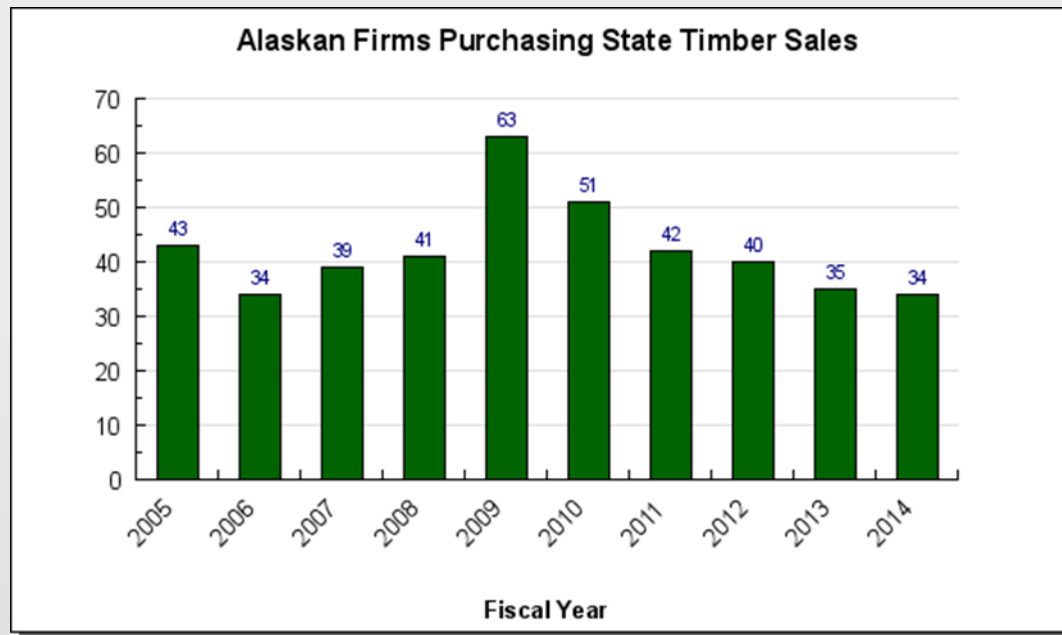
# Forest Management Program

- ❑ Manages forest resources on all forested state land (27 million acres).
- ❑ Lead agency for planning and management of Tanana Valley, Haines and Southeast State Forests (2 million acres).
- ❑ Sold 28 million board feet of timber in FY14.



# Management and Development

- ❑ The number of purchasers of state timber sales has returned to historic levels after spiking in 2009-2010, two years with many new entrants into the commercial firewood business.



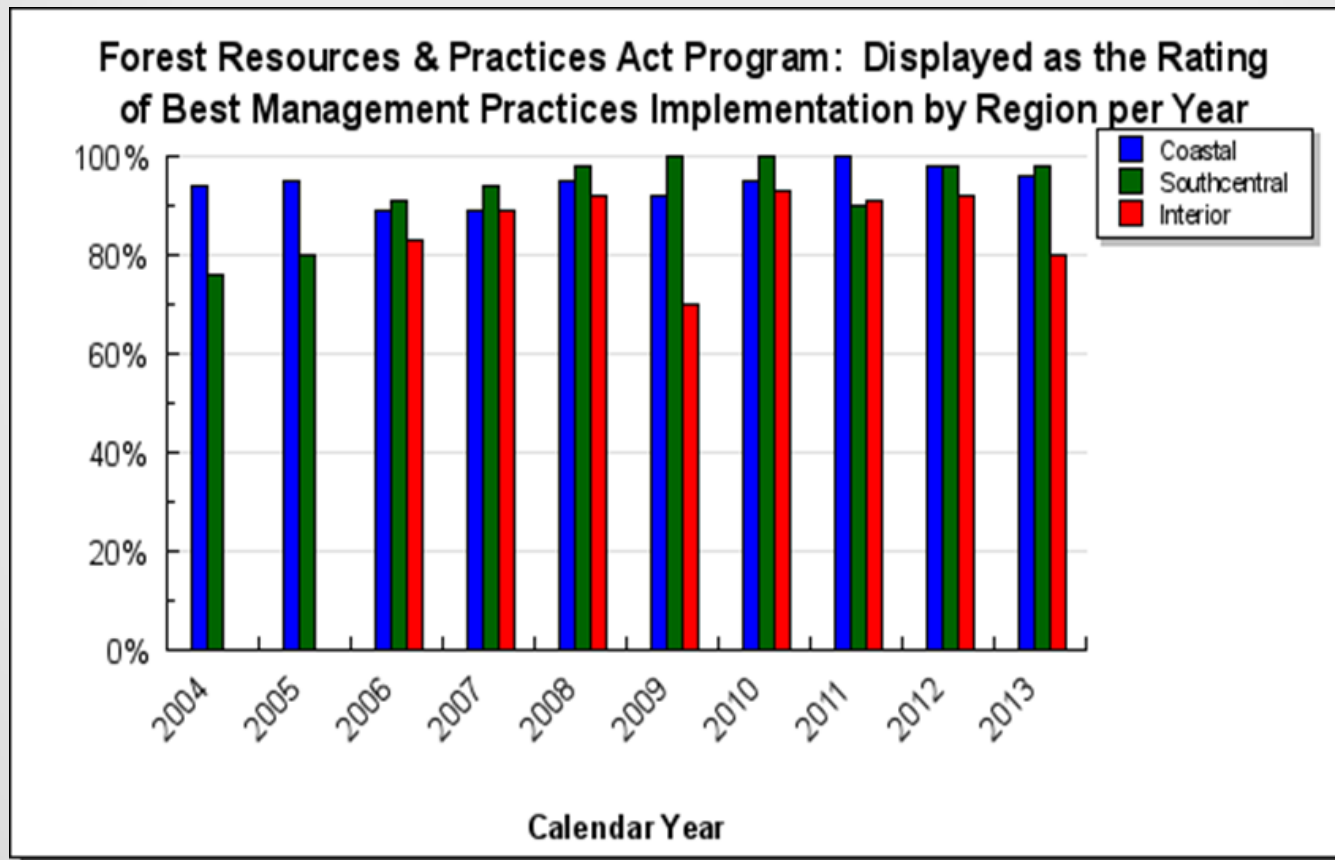


# Forest Practices Program

- ❑ Implements the Alaska Forest Resource & Practices Act on state, municipal, trust, Native corporation, and other private lands throughout Alaska.



- ❑ Best management practices (BMPs) are designed to prevent adverse impacts from forest operations on fish habitat and water quality, and to ensure prompt reforestation following harvest.





# Board of Forestry



- Governor-appointed Board.
- DOF appraises the Board of key forest practices issues.
- DOF annually compiles data from ADF&G, DEC and DNR and reports to the Board on the effectiveness of the Forest Resources and Practices Act (FRPA).

Timber industry  
Mining industry  
Foresters  
Recreationists

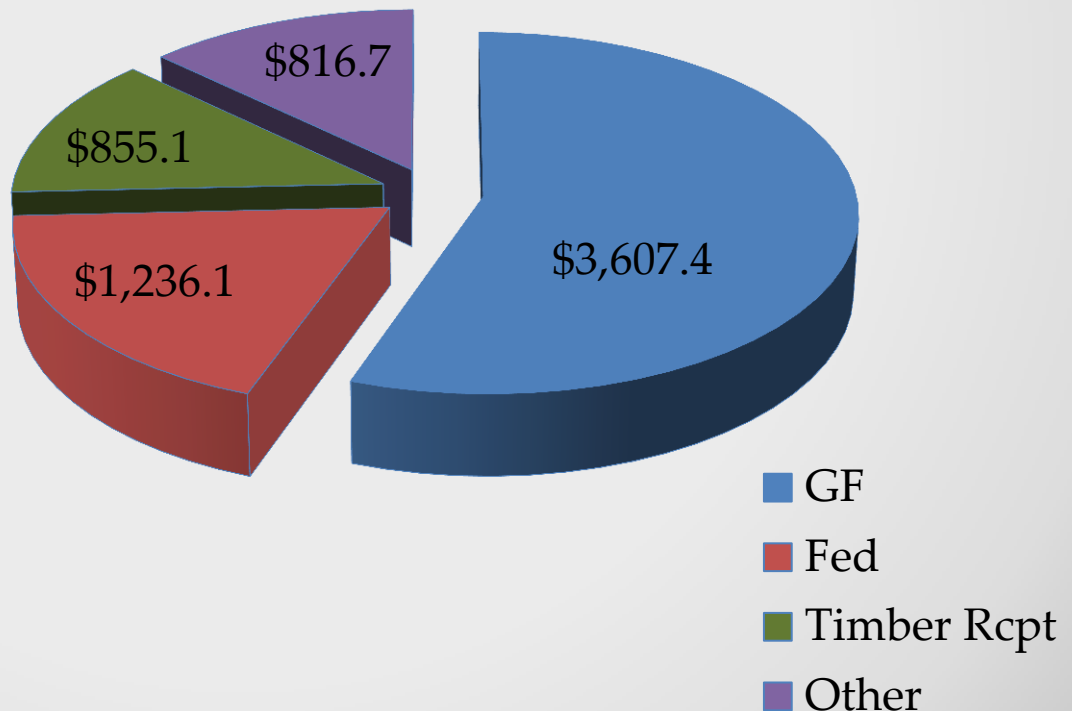
Fishing industry  
Native corporations  
Fish & wildlife scientists  
Environmentalists

# Resources Budget and Staffing

Forest Management and Development Component  
FY2016 Governor's Operating Request \$6,515.3

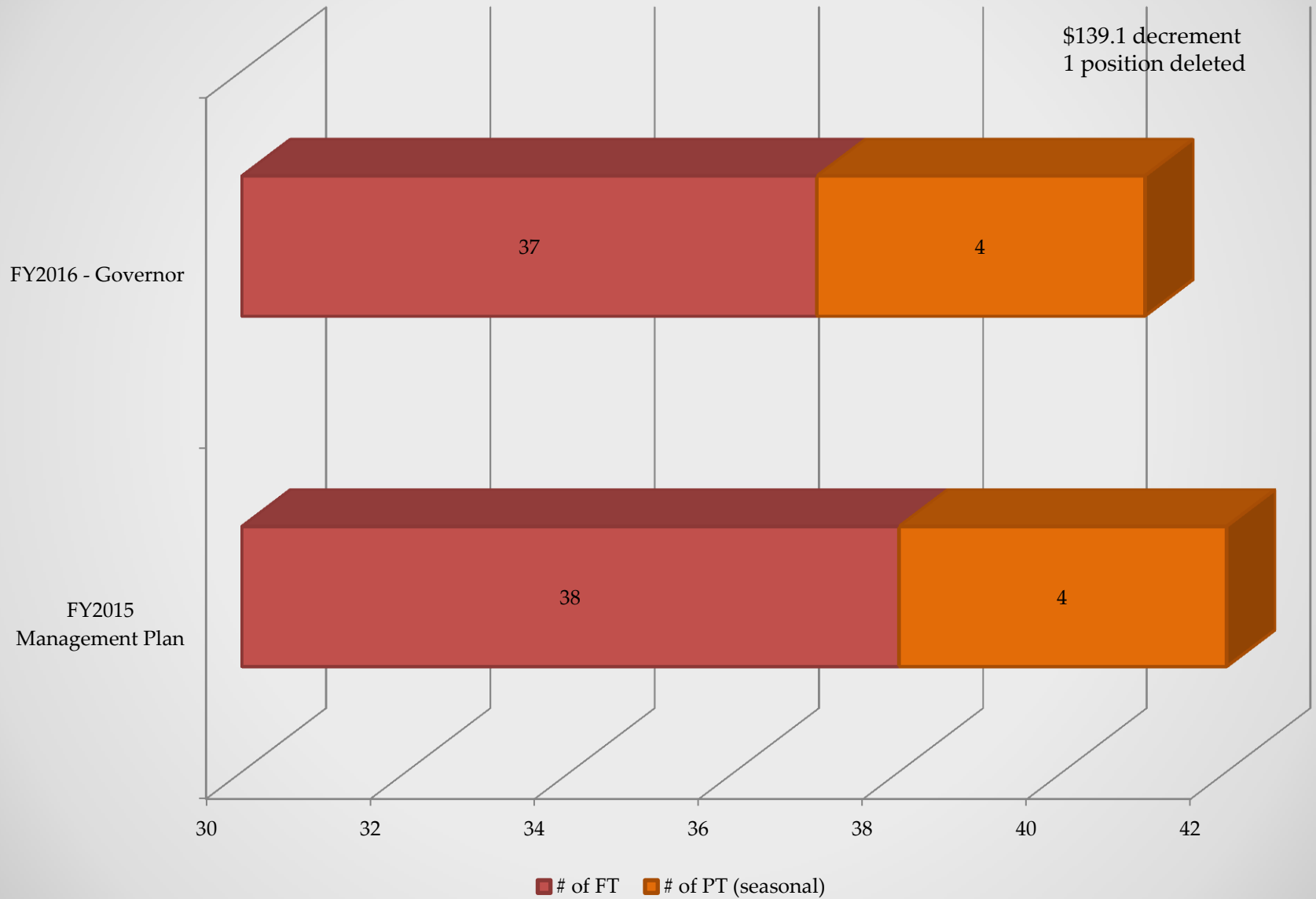
Staffing: \*

- 37 Full Time
- 4 Part Time (seasonal)
- 13 Non-permanent



\*23 positions in this component are split  
funded with the Fire Suppression  
Preparedness component

## Forest Management and Development





# Key Strategies

- ❑ Provide state timber to meet local demand within the limit of sustainable supply.
- ❑ Provide stable or increasing economic and environmental benefits from the use of trees and forests.
- ❑ Ensure that private and non-Federal public forest landowners comply with the Forest Resources & Practices Act best management practices.
- ❑ Deliver technical assistance programs to reach broad audiences with minimal staffing.



# Accomplishments in FY2014

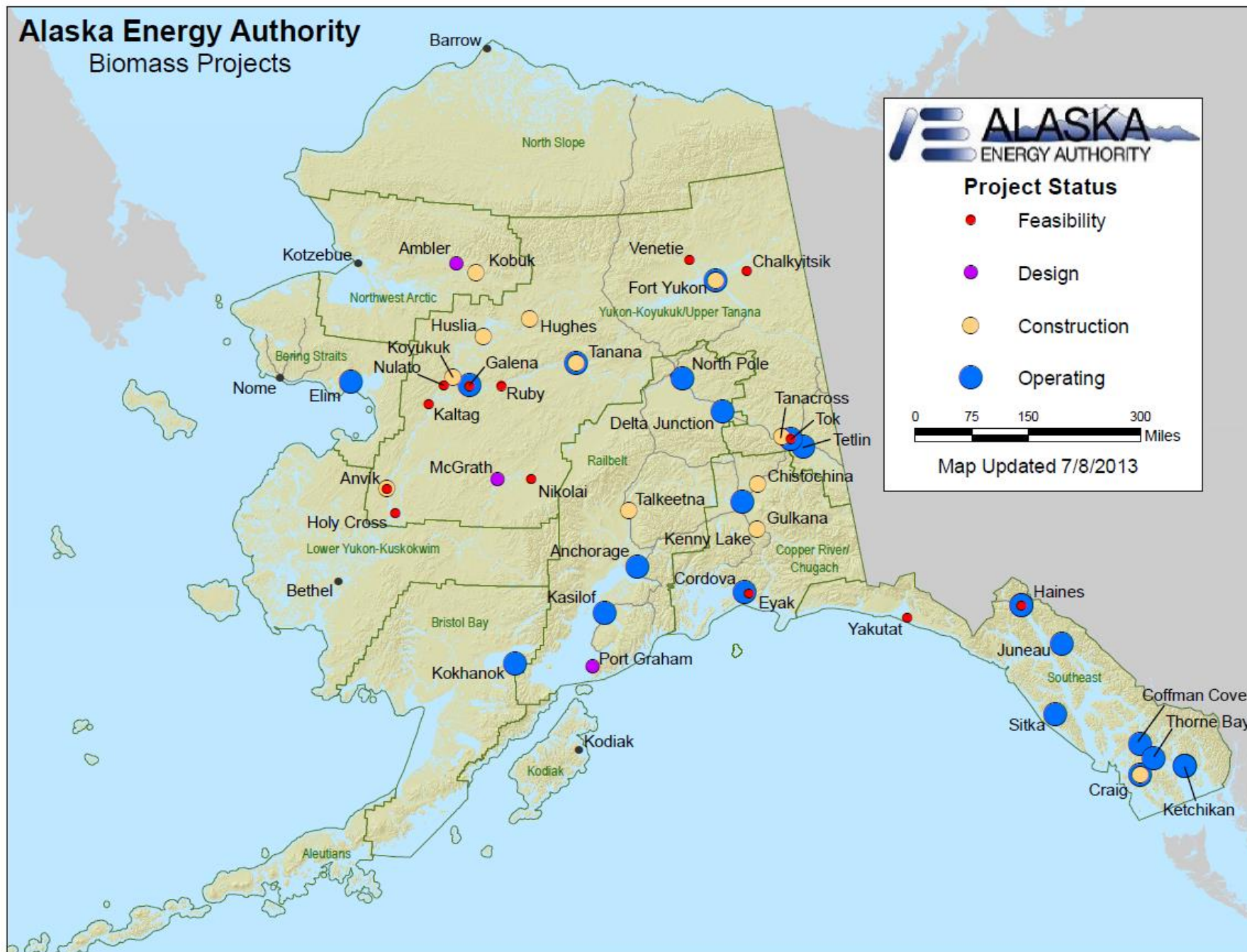
- ❑ Continued to provide support for statewide wood biomass projects by completing technical reviews of wood supply, forestry harvest operations and ensuring long-term sustainability of fuel supply.



- ❑ Partnered with State, Federal and Native organizations to expand tabular and spatial forest inventory data for existing and proposed wood processing and biomass utilization facilities statewide.

# Alaska Energy Authority

## Biomass Projects





**Alaska Wood Energy  
Development Task Force  
Pre-Feasibility Reports**

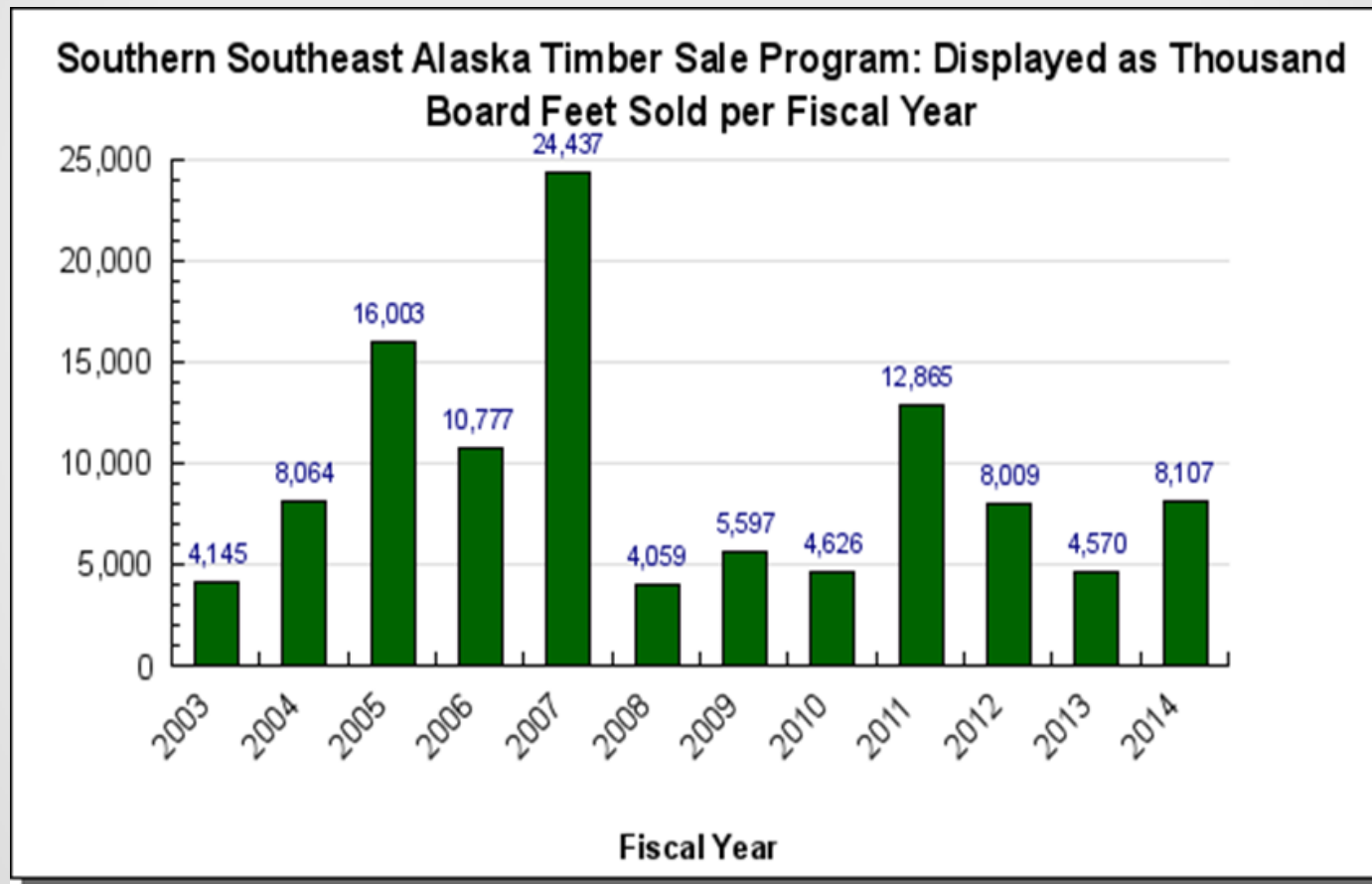


# Accomplishments in FY2014

- ❑ Prepared and offered 28.5 million board feet of timber, and sold all 28.5 million board feet in 58 separate timber sales to 34 Alaskan businesses.
- ❑ Issued 1,185 permits for personal use firewood – mostly online – that resulted in the harvest of almost 5,000 cords of firewood through Dec. 4.
- ❑ In CY2013, conducted timely review of 30 new Forest Practices Detailed Plans of Operations covering 5,897 acres and 26 miles of new forest road construction; conducted 54 field inspections on private, municipal, and trust land, and 157 State timber sale inspections.

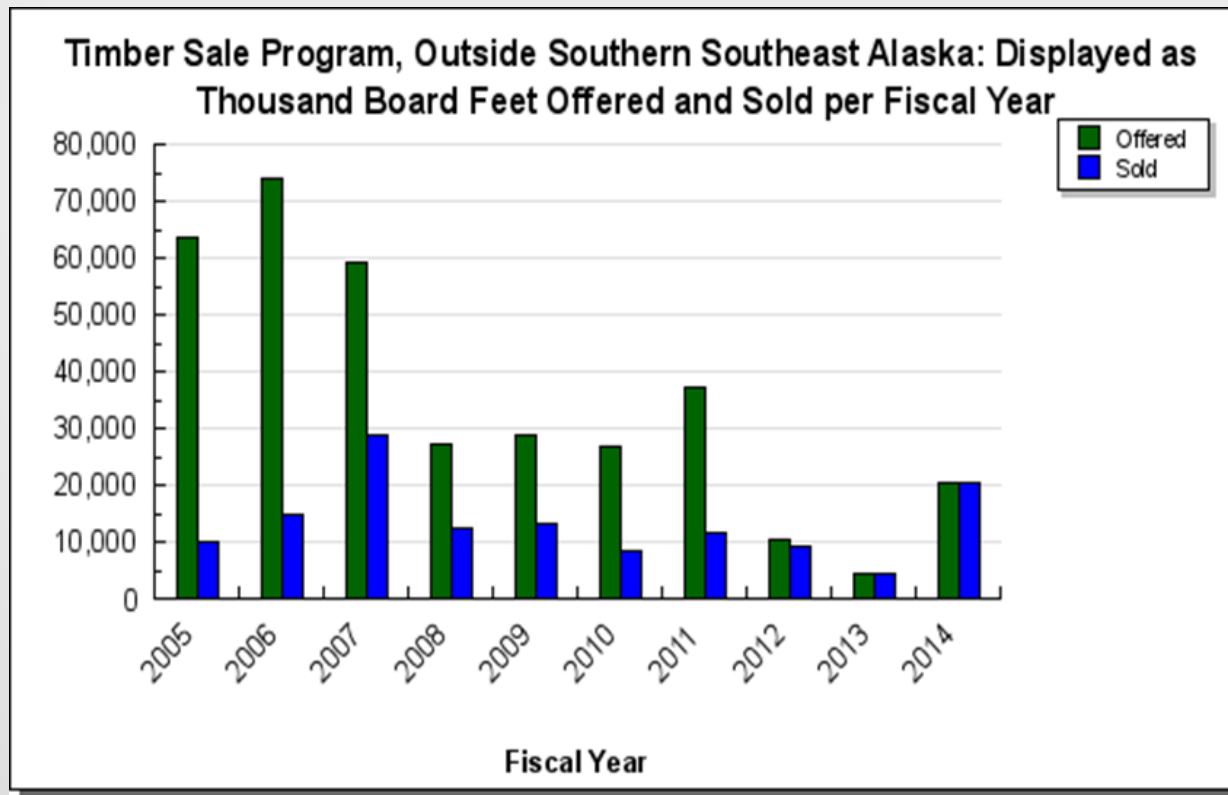


- ❑ The demand for timber continues to be high in the Southern Southeast Area, where Federal supply is limiting the forest industry.





- ❑ The Division continues to supply a growing biomass industry in Interior Alaska, where high fuel prices have stimulated the demand for wood pellets, wood chips and firewood, both for commercial and personal use.



# Key Challenges

- ❑ Sustaining a timber industry in Southeast.
- ❑ Providing state timber to meet the rapidly growing biomass and personal use demand while maintaining best management practices as required by State statutes and regulations.
- ❑ Development of new access and maintaining existing roads, bridges and related infrastructure.
- ❑ Recruitment and retention for resource foresters.

# Fire and Aviation Program

- ❑ Provides wildland fire protection on State, private and municipal lands and lands under agreement commensurate with values at risk.
- ❑ Ensures that the Division's wildland fire suppression resources are ready to safely and cost-effectively initial attack wildland fires.
- ❑ Provides wildland fire training.
- ❑ Promotes Community Wildfire Protection Planning and hazard fuel reduction projects.





# Fire Preparedness Program

- ❑ DOF protects 152 Million acres -- almost all of the urban area of the state (in blue), where most Alaskans live.



10-year average annual wildland fires statewide = 496

10-year average annual acreage burned statewide = 1,188,201

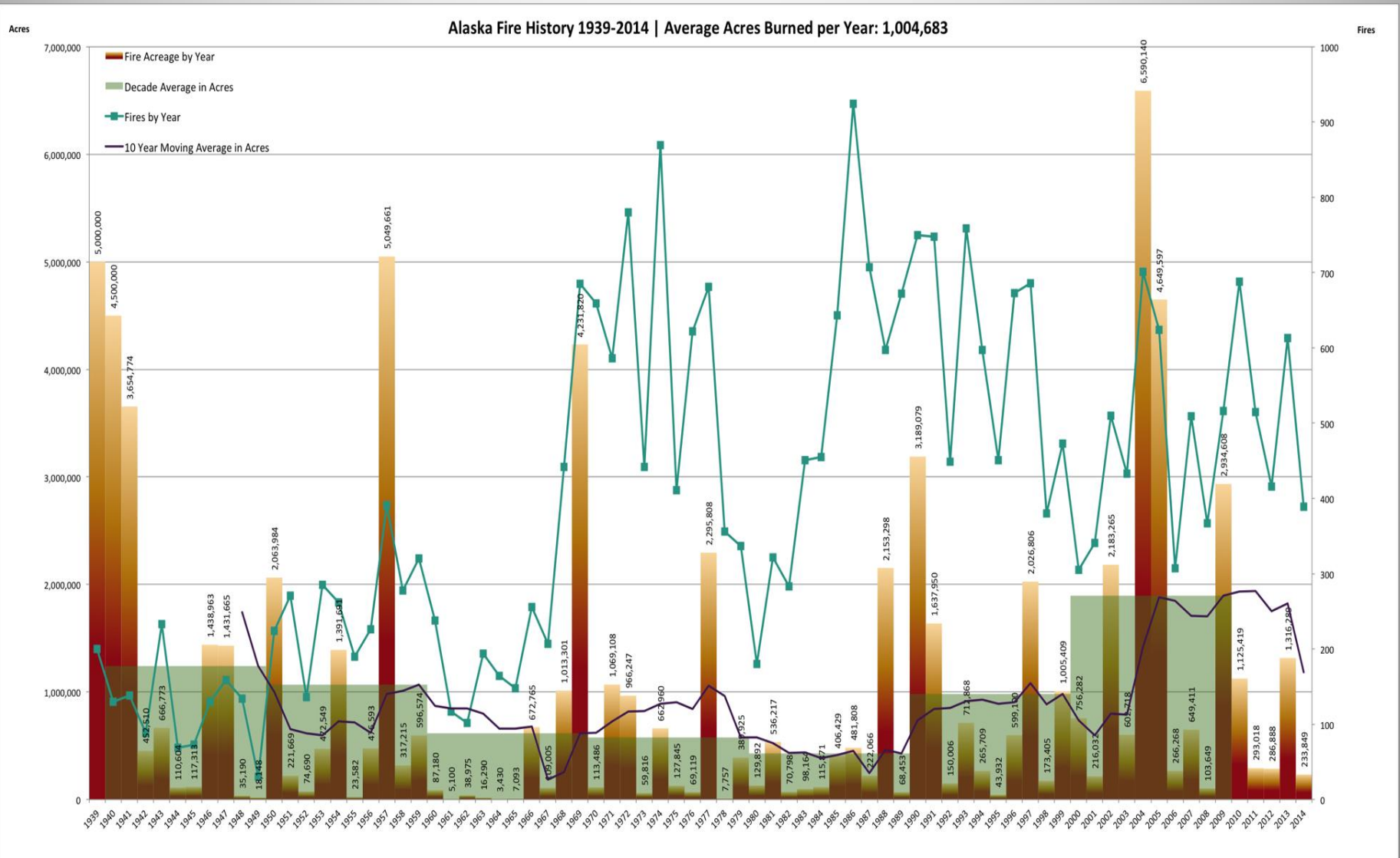
# Fire Preparedness Program

- ❑ DOF manages 3 agency crews (Pioneer Peak, White Mtn., Gannet Glacier) and supports 3 contract crews (TCC, Chugachmiut, UAF).
- ❑ DOF cooperates with the Federal Bureau of Land Management - Alaska Fire Service, U.S. Forest Service and structure fire departments.





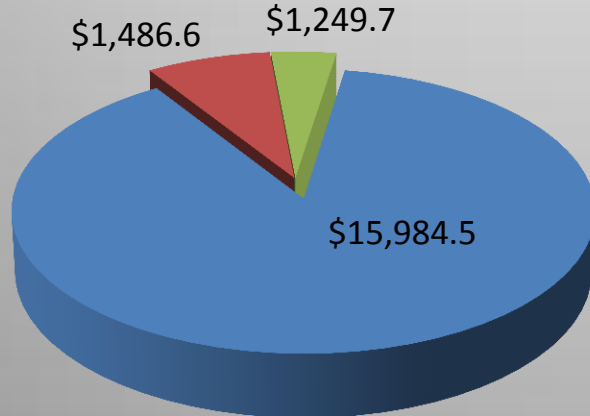
# Fire Management



# Fire Budget/Staffing

## Statewide Fire Suppression Program FY2016 Governor's Operating Budget Request

### Fire Suppression Preparedness Component \$18,720.8



Staffing: \*

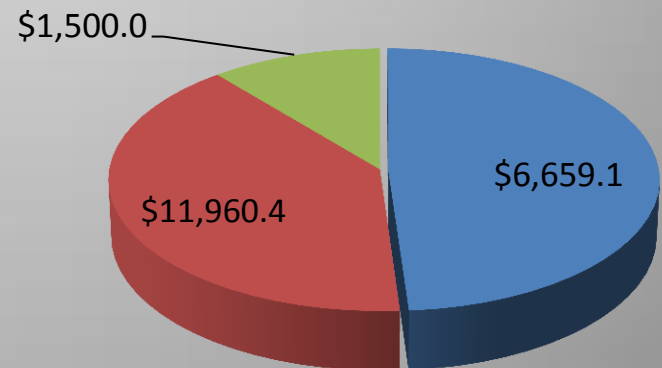
31 Full Time

167 Part Time (seasonal)

2 Non-permanent

\* 23 positions in this component are split funded with the Forest Management and Development component

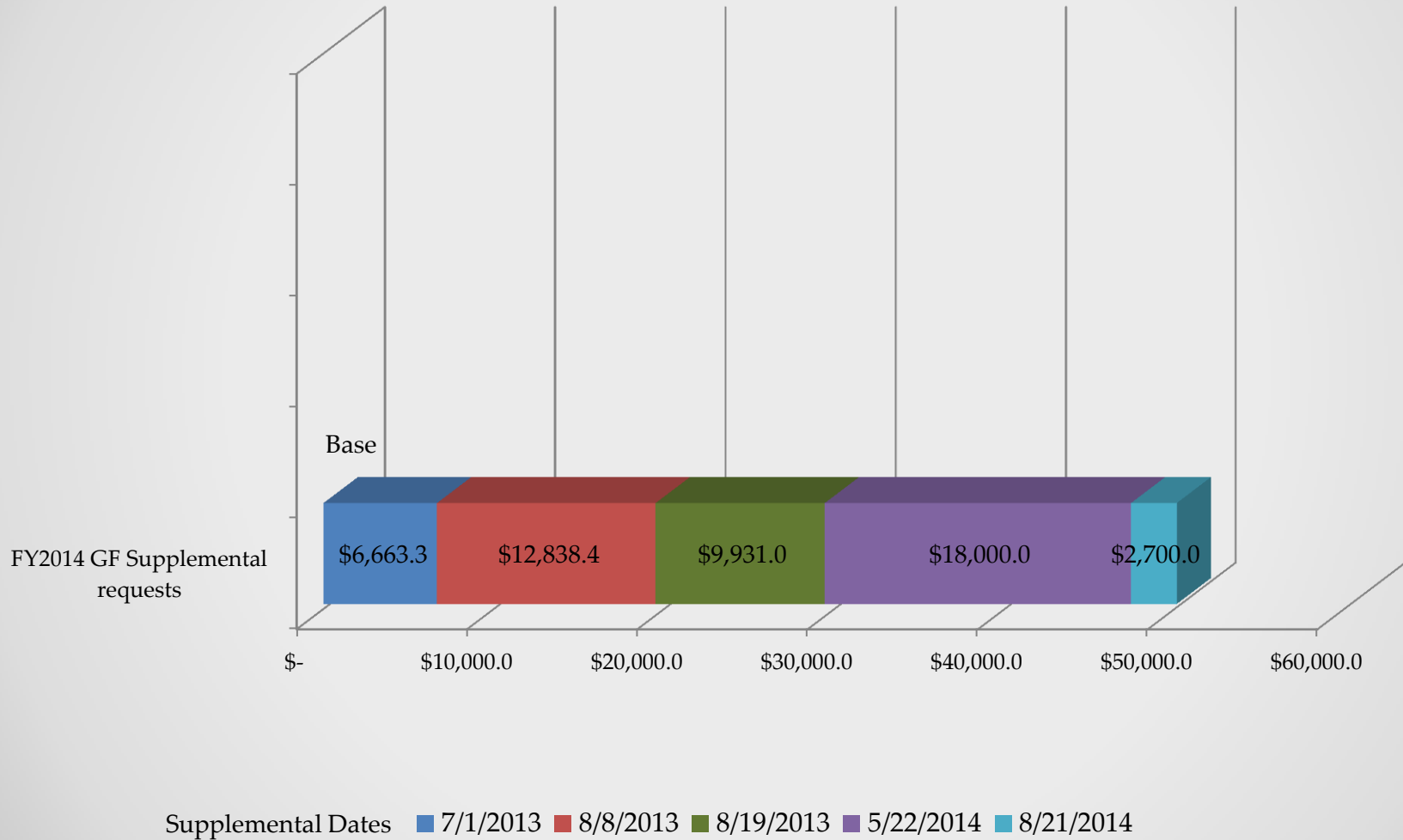
### Fire Suppression Activity Component \$20,119.5



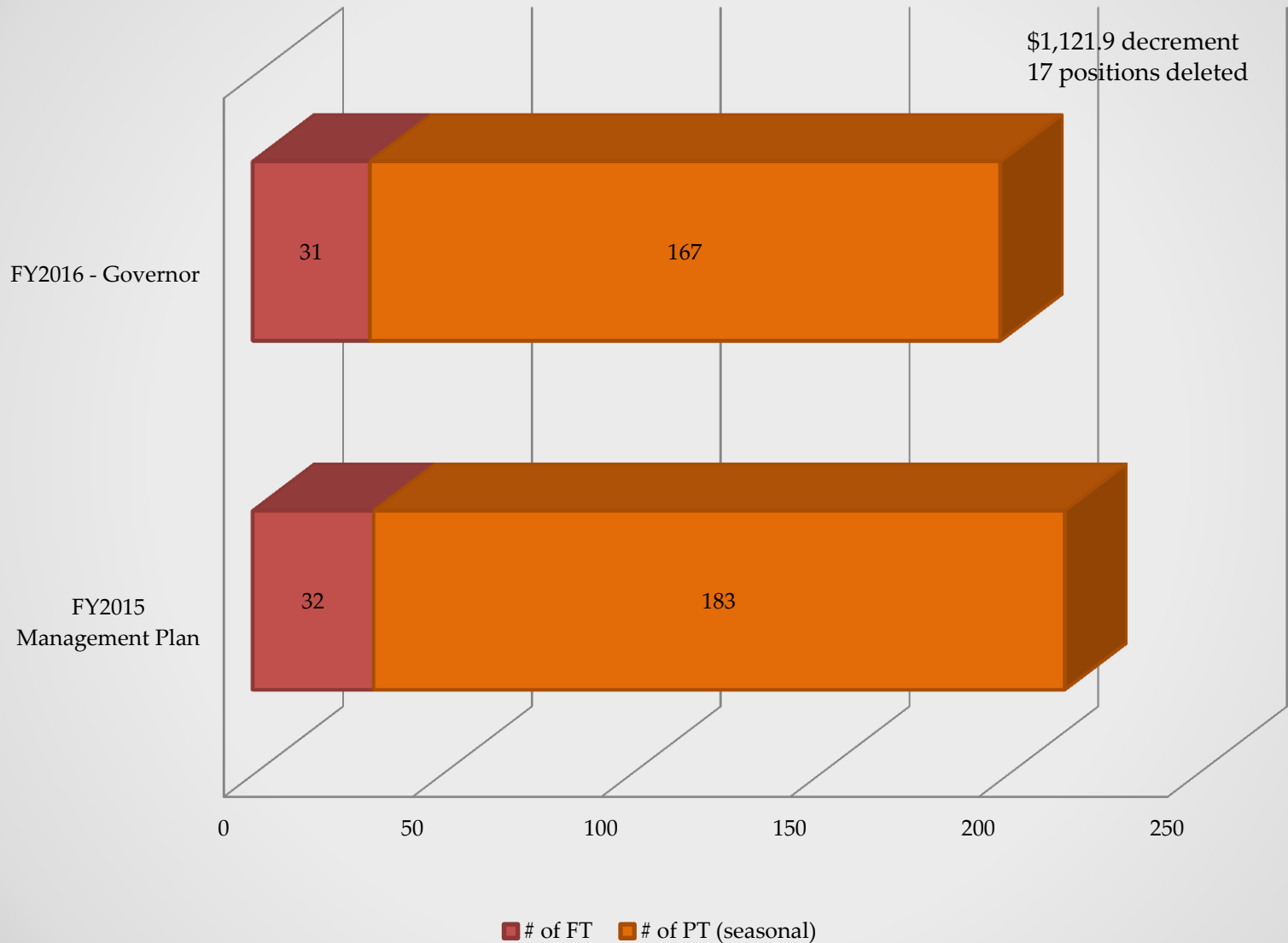
GF Fed Other



## FY2014 Supplemental Requests Fire Suppression Activity



## Fire Suppression Preparedness



# Key Strategies

- ❑ Protect identified values in accordance with the Alaska Interagency Wildland Fire Management Plan while balancing cost per acre.
- ❑ Provide for the safety of the public by minimizing exposure to smoke and minimizing injuries to firefighters.
- ❑ Minimize the impact of fire through enforcement and education, community planning and hazard fuel mitigation.
- ❑ Maintain firefighting workforce equipment, facilities, training and related support.



# Accomplishments in FY2014

- ❑ Suppressed 99.9% of fires in Critical and Full Management areas at 10 acres or less.
- ❑ Protected over 2,400 structures valued at an estimated \$250 million during the Funny River Fire.
- ❑ Safely managed 393 fires for under 250,000 acres burned statewide.
- ❑ Mobilized and employed 727 Emergency Firefighters resulting in nearly \$6 million in wages.
- ❑ Recovered over \$3.7 million in overbilling from AFS.





# Accomplishments in FY2014

- ❑ Contributed significantly to Alaska's economy, benefitting more than 450 vendors (\$11.0 million) personnel salaries for 940 firefighters, salaries for Type 1 and 2 crews, and local purchases in many communities.
- ❑ Supported the U.S. Forest Service in the Lower 48 with two Alaska Air Attack planes and 3 Air Tankers.



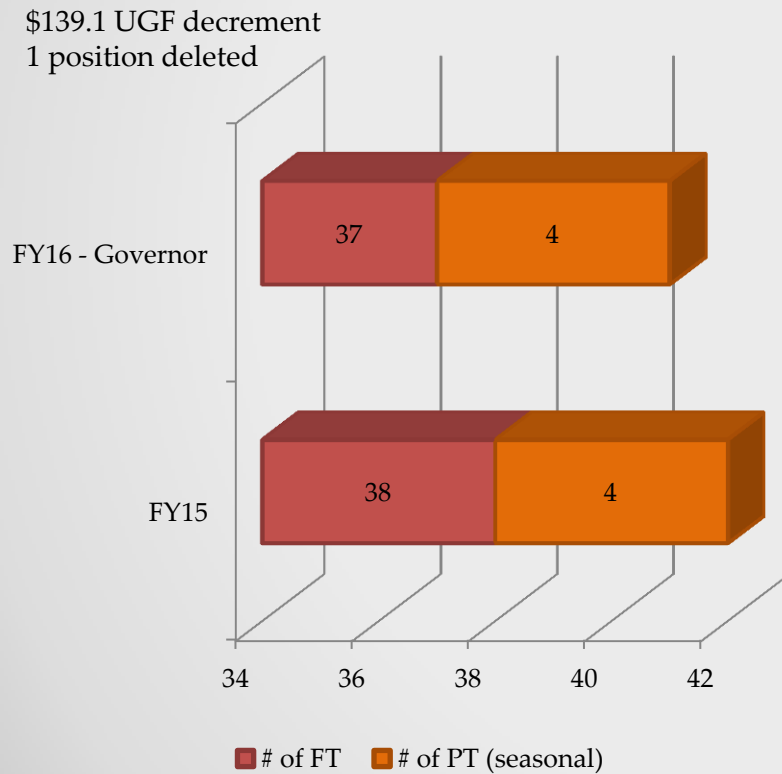
# Key Challenges

- ❑ Maintain firefighting capacity with reduced Federal, State and municipal funding.
- ❑ Provide aerial firefighting response to wildland urban interface areas.
- ❑ Increasing workload as a result of expanding wildland urban interface.
- ❑ Increasing contractual costs for aircraft, equipment and services.
- ❑ Increasing need for response to non-fire incidents.

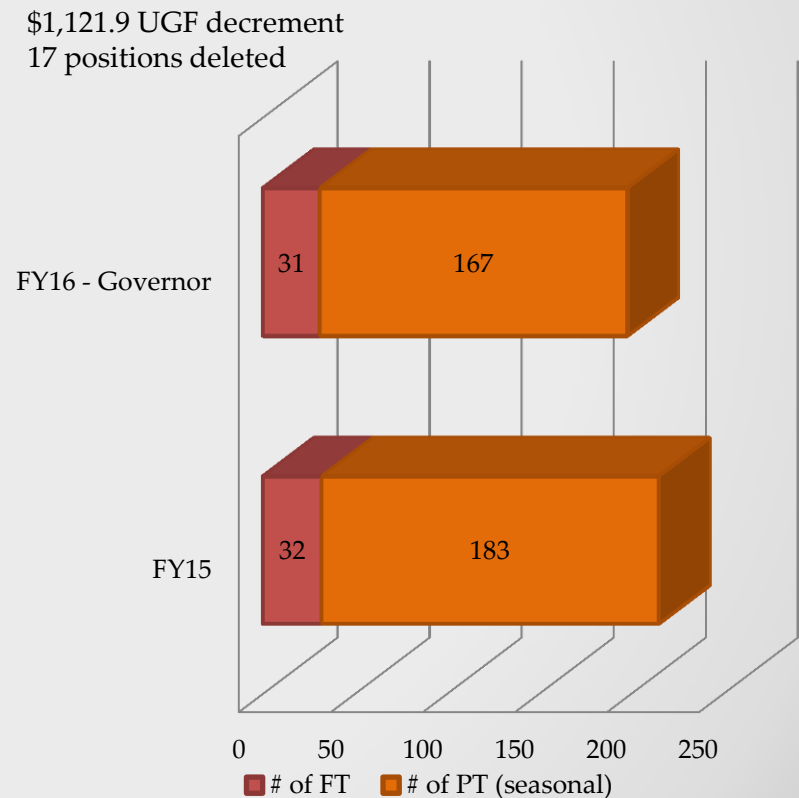


# Division of Forestry

## Forest Management and Development



## Fire Suppression Preparedness





Questions ?