



DNR Agriculture and Park & Outdoor Recreation

House Natural Resources Sub Finance Committee



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March 15, 2021



FY2022 GOVERNOR BUDGET CHANGES

Division of Parks

- Increase UGF to Support Law Enforcement Activities
\$250.0
 - Provide funding to support Law Enforcement activities
 - Funds the personal services



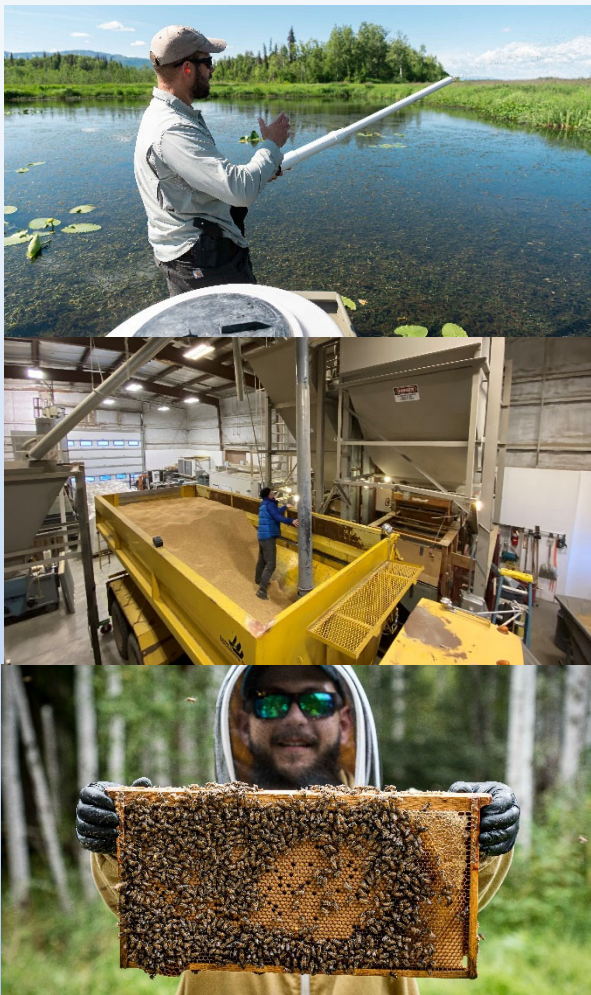
FY2022 GOVERNOR BUDGET CHANGES

Division of Agriculture

- Increase Federal Receipt Authority
\$663.7
 - Two new grants, Elodea and Food Security Micro Grant
- Fund change from UGF (-\$100.0) to Federal (\$100.0)
 - Two new grants will allow the division to charge staff time to the grants

DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE

Mission: To promote and encourage development of an agriculture industry in the State.



- Eradicated 70 percent of *Elodea* in Alexander/ Sucker Lake complex
- Produced 30,000 lbs. / number of foundation seed and cleaned 262,000 lbs. of seed for commercial growers
- Continued soil health and variety trials; as well as bee and pest studies

DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE



- Completed GHP / GAP, seed and phytosanitary inspections on over \$100,000,000 of Agricultural products
- Established Industrial Hemp program
- Revamped and improved Market and Grant Services Programs

FOCUS ON THE FUTURE!



1. **Strengthen** Alaska's Food Security through the Plant Material Center and State and USDA agriculture production programs.
2. **Protect** Alaska's natural resources and eco-systems through invasive plant pest and pathogen detection, eradication and management programs.
3. **Promote** Alaska's agriculture industries (including forestry) by providing plant inspection services (including phytosanitary certificates) on approximately \$100,000,000 worth of exports under state and USDA authority.
4. **Provide** all Alaska natural resource industries with supporting technical services and native plants for industry to grow and use for reclamation of construction, mining and oil industry development.
5. **Develop and produce** foundation seed of native plants and agronomic plants important to Alaska and the United States.

DIVISION OF PARKS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION - MISSION STATEMENT -

The Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation provides outdoor recreation opportunities and conserves and interprets natural, cultural, and historic resources for the use enjoyment, and welfare of the people.



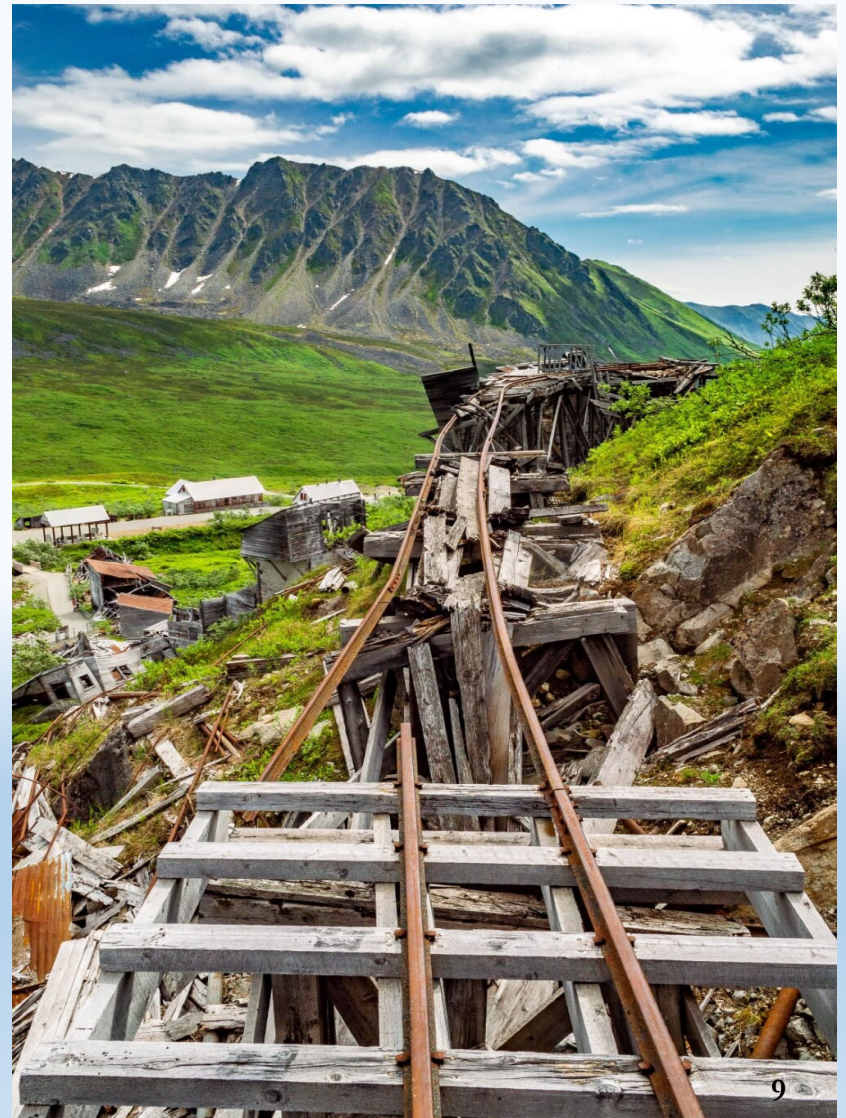
Authority: AS 41.21.010- 41.21.040

DIVISION SECTIONS

- **Field Operations:** Manages 157 units of the largest state park system in the country. Including many of the most accessible public recreation lands in Alaska
- **Office of Boating Safety:** Promotes safety of persons and property in and connected with the use, operation, and equipment of boats on the water of the state
- **Office of History and Archeology:** Provides statewide historic preservation programs to identify, document, protect and restore prehistoric, archaeological and historic sites and buildings. Also serves as the state historic preservation office (SHPO), representing the state's interests in protecting its heritage resources
- **Design and Construction:** Provides professional design, construction, and interpretation and education services to responsibly develop facilities that are safe, sanitary, functional, and enjoyable to the benefit of Alaskans and visitors
- **Administration and Grants:** Oversees operating and capital budgets for the division, supervises region managers, processes park permitting, communications, administers Federal Grant programs, such as RTP, LWCF, and HPF

PUBLIC RESOURCES

- 3.6 Million Acres
- 157 State Park Units
- 76 Campgrounds, 2,480 sites
- 86 Public Use Cabins
- 24 Boat Launches
- 38 Reservable Facilities
- 93 Developed Trailheads
- 900 Miles of Maintained Trails
- 524 Latrine Toilet Stalls
- 136 Fee Collection Stations



BUDGET CONSTRAINTS

Lean Staffing:

- In FY21: 74 PFT staff, 28 PT Staff, 33 Non-Perm, 176Volunteers
- A cumulative loss of 29 PCN's from 2016 (17% decrease)

Leaner Budget:

- In FY21: 57% of Field Operations was self-sufficient
- Very little of DPOR's budget comes UGF (FY21 = \$73.1)



BUDGET INCREMENT LAW ENFORCEMENT NEEDS

Continued budget reductions and cost increases over the last several years have limited DPOR's ability to fund the Park Ranger Law Enforcement program, and these shortfalls need to be filled to provide the critically important services of this unit, to keep visitors safe and protect resources.

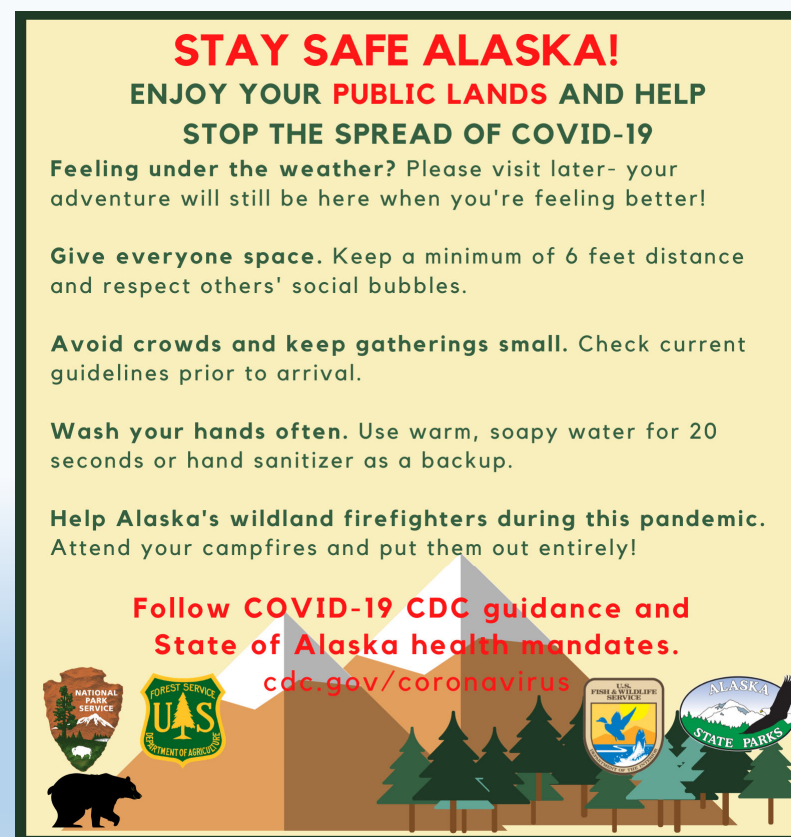
The increment will allow DPOR to fund all other costs needed for Law Enforcement activities such as:

- Premium pay (Overtime, swing, grave)
- Law Enforcement in-service, recruit field training, recertifications
- Law Enforcement dispatch, replacing equipment including internal vests, web gear, ammunition.



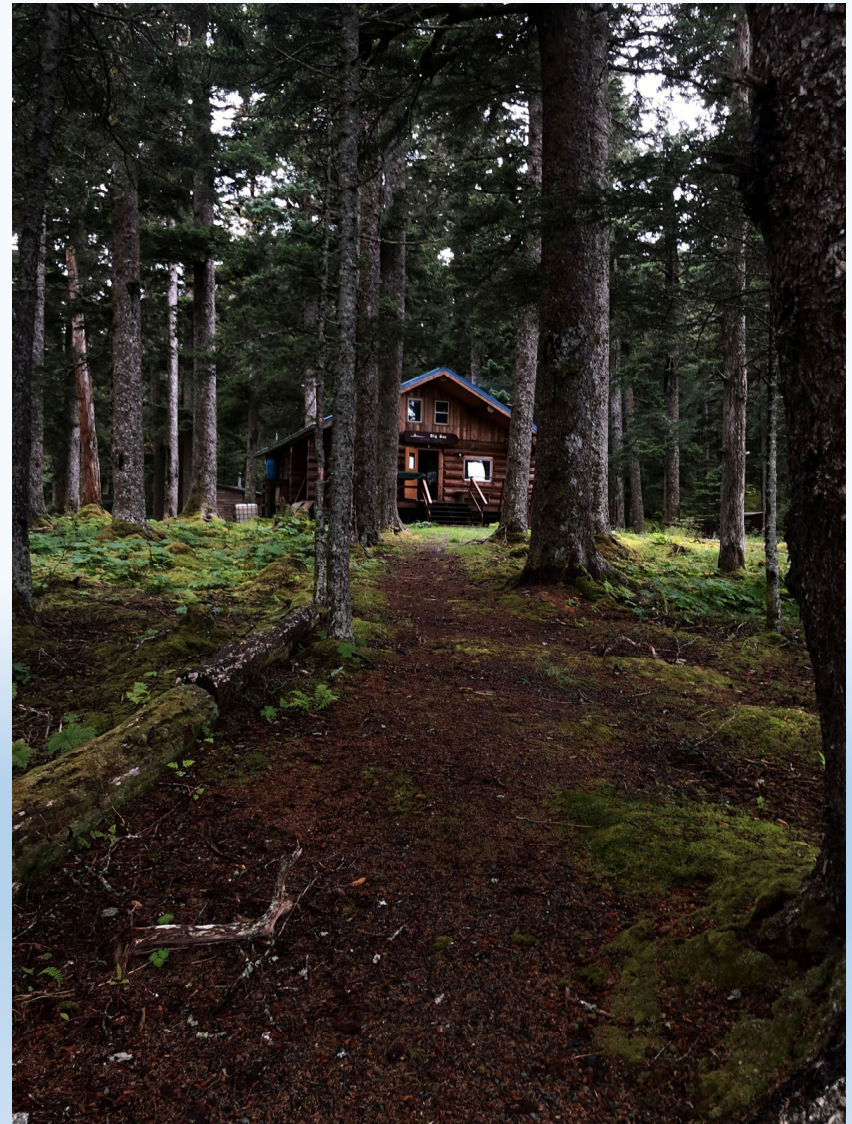
COVID-19 AND ALASKA STATE PARKS

- Alaska is the only state park system in the nation that stayed entirely open through pandemic
- Increase of 20% utilization of reservable PUCs and campsites
- In 2020, new visitation came primarily from Alaska residents
- Significant decline in non-resident visitation (cruise and air travel to Alaska) resulted in loss of approximately \$500,000 in revenue
- Increased public outreach via all mediums including specific messaging for new users experiencing parks for the first time
- Partnered with NPS, USFWS and USFS to produce a cohesive message for a safe and fun summer for Alaska



INITIATIVES & 2020 TAKEAWAYS

- Online Reservation System Improvements for Public Use Cabins, Campsite and Facilities
 - Reduced transaction fees
 - Alaska-only website for more efficient user-friendly access
 - Alaska based Call Center to help with reservations-related concerns
 - Access to enhanced reporting system
- Streamlined Administration procedures
 - To reduce cash handling, more emphasis on online transactions, 22 electronic fee stations installed
 - Developed an online Commercial Use Permitting system
 - Virtual meetings proved successful – staff, agency, advisory, grant review, trainings, certifications
- 50th Anniversary – Parks are popular, relevant, important for quality of life



QUESTIONS?



THANK YOU!

