

HICR

54

# HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT File

(11)

Date Referred: March 15, 1990

FURTHER REFERRALS:

(Finance added 3/15)

Date of Committee Action: 4/24/90

The FINANCE Committee considered:

HCR 54

HOUSE CONCURRENT RES. NO. 54

ALASKA YOUTH REFORESTATION CORPS

Relating to the Alaska Youth Reforestation Corps.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- [ ] be replaced with \_\_\_\_\_ [  ] the same title
- [ ] have attached amendment(s) [ ] a new title
- [  ] do pass
- [ ] do not pass
- [ ] no recommendation
- [ ] individual recommendations
- [ ] additional referral to the \_\_\_\_\_ Committee

**ADOPTS:** \_\_\_\_\_ letter of intent

**ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(s):**  
(Dept)

**APPROVES PREVIOUS:**

(Date/Dept)

- [ ] fiscal impact \_\_\_\_\_
- [  ] zero fiscal note DNR
- [ ] zero with analysis \_\_\_\_\_

- [ ] fiscal note(s) \_\_\_\_\_
- [ ] zero fiscal note(s) \_\_\_\_\_
- [ ] zero fn/analysis \_\_\_\_\_

**SIGNING DO PASS:**

**SIGNING:**

(Check approp. column)

Do Not  
Pass      No Rec      Amend

\_\_\_\_\_  
Larson

\_\_\_\_\_  
Swackhammer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Brown

\_\_\_\_\_  
Koponen

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ulmer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Barnes

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phillips

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

_____ Shultz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
_____ Rieger	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
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\_\_\_\_\_  
Hoffman  
Co-Chairman's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Larson

## FISCAL NOTE

**REQUEST:**

Revision Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: Relating to the Alaska Youth  
Reforestation Corps  
Sponsor: Rep. Menard  
Requestor: House Finance Committee

Agency Affected: Natural Resources  
BRU: Forest Management  
Components: Forest Management

**EXPENDITURES/REVENUES:** (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96
PERSONAL SERVICES	36.5	36.5	37.6	37.6	38.7	38.7
TRAVEL	8.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
CONTRACTUAL	40.0	40.0	41.0	41.0	42.0	42.0
SUPPLIES	6.0	6.0	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5
EQUIPMENT			2.0		2.0	
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>90.5</b>	<b>86.5</b>	<b>91.1</b>	<b>89.1</b>	<b>93.2</b>	<b>91.2</b>

CAPITAL						
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REVENUE						
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**FUNDING:** (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND	100.0	86.5	91.1	89.1	93.2	91.2
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>86.5</b>	<b>91.1</b>	<b>89.1</b>	<b>93.2</b>	<b>91.2</b>

**POSITIONS:**

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

**ANALYSIS :** (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Prepared by: House Finance Committee Phone: 465-3727  
Division: Co-Chairman Ron Larson *Ronald J. Larson* Date: April 24, 1990  
Co-Chairman Lyman Hoffman  
Approved by Commissioner: *Lyman Hoffman* Date: April 24, 1990  
Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Distribution (by preparer):  
Legislative Finance  
Legislative Sponsor  
Requestor  
Office of Management and Budget  
Impacted Agency(ies)

BY REP. MENARD, Larson, Koponen, Kubina, Brown, Ellis

1 IN THE HOUSE

2 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 54

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Relating to the Alaska Youth Reforesta-  
6 tion Corps.

7 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

8 WHEREAS art. VIII, sec. 4, of the Constitution of the State of Alaska,  
9 mandates that all forests belonging to the state be managed on a sustained  
10 yield basis; and

11 WHEREAS AS 41.17.010(1) declares that the forest resources of the  
12 state are among the most valuable natural resources of the state and  
13 furnish timber and wood products, fish and wildlife, tourism, outdoor  
14 recreation, water, soil, air, minerals, and general health welfare; and

15 WHEREAS AS 41.17.010(2) declares that economic enterprises and other  
16 activities and pursuits derived from forest resources warrant the continu-  
17 ing recognition and support of the state; and

18 WHEREAS AS 41.17.010(3) declares that the state has a fundamental  
19 obligation to ensure that management of forest resources guarantees per-  
20 petual supplies of renewable resources, provides nonrenewable resources in  
21 a manner consistent with that obligation, and serves the needs of the state  
22 for the many products, benefits, and services obtained from them; and

23 WHEREAS the state has an obligation and vested interest in protecting  
24 and conserving its natural resources for the benefit of future generations  
25 of residents; and

26 WHEREAS the state has an obligation and vested interest in teaching  
27 its children about the principles of conservation and sustained yield  
28 management of timber resources; and

29 WHEREAS the young people of the state should have the opportunity to  
H

1 take an active role in the regeneration of our timber resources; and

2 WHEREAS participation in reforestation activities by the state's young  
3 people would be a healthy and educational experience;

4 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests  
5 the governor to direct the commissioner of natural resources and the state  
6 forester to establish and organize a volunteer Alaska Youth Reforestation  
7 Corps; and be it

8 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Youth Reforestation Corps become an  
9 integral part of the reforestation program of the state.

3/6/90

Revised Cost Estimator - Local Youth Reforestation Corps  
Alternative to 2/14/90 memo on YRC under HCR 54

Objective: Train local youth for employment by reforestation contractors at least cost to State.

First Year

Forest Technician III (Extend existing Technician?)	\$ 12,000	(3+ months)
5 each Temporary For. Tech. I/II (Anchorage rates used)	32,250	(2½ months @ \$25)
6 passenger pickup	20,000	
Mileage/Replacement	8,000	
Recruiting, etc.	2,000	
Support Funds (200-400)	5,000	
Equipment	5,000	
	<u>\$ 84,250</u>	

Subsequent Years

For. Tech. III	\$ 12,000	(3 months)
5 each Temporary For. Tech. I/II	32,250	(2½ months)
Vehicle Mileage/Replacement	8,000	
Recruiting, etc.	1,000	
Support Funds (200-400)	5,000	
Equipment Replacement	1,000	
	<u>\$ 59,250</u>	

NOTE: If welfare reform program workers were substituted at no cost to the reforestation program the costs for each crew would become \$52,000 the first year but only \$27,000/year subsequently.

# Seedling Production Site Analysis

3/6/90 pg. 1 of 2

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Eagle River

Present Facility Capable of 800,000 Trees/year  
Substantial investment at present site (\$1 million min to replace)  
Ready access to commercial air + ground transportation  
Natural gas greatly saves on heat bills!  
Site has room to add greenhouses up to 5.0 mm annual load  
Inmate from Anchorage close by  
Maintenance facility/tools/equipment on site.  
Limited wind exposure  
Rare extreme cold temperatures  
Dedicated cone/seed processing building in place.

-  
Topsoil needed for bare root production  
Palmer inmates far away  
No on-site seed production capacity  
No dedicated building for operations.

Fairbanks

Most of seedlings will be planted in the Tanana Vicinity  
Researchers based at UAF  
Soils physically suitable for bare-root nursery

Facility would have to be built from scratch  
No natural gas  
Extreme cold - high utility costs.  
Extended use of "grow lights"  
Bare root trees only for local use  
Unknown actual space availability

Plant Materials  
Center - Palmer

Existing plant researchers on-site  
120 acres of land unused  
Bare root production physically possible  
Near Palmer inmates  
Seed orchard possible in the future

No natural gas present/likely  
Unused acreage is an island  
High winds likely to cause bare root losses  
Far away from Anchorage inmates  
High greenhouse maintenance  
Facility would have to be built from scratch  
Extreme winds/temps.

Seedling Production Site Analysis

3/6/90 pg 2 of 2

+

Pt. McKenzie

- More than adequate acreage for:
  - Buildings (Work/Maintenance)
  - Greenhouses (nearly unlimited)
  - Bare-root production
  - Seed orchards
  - Provenance testing

-

- Facility would have to be built from "0"
- Lengthy commute for all labor/inmates
- Requires new maintenance equipment/tools
- Subject to extreme temps/winds.
- Removes agricultural lead from products
- Requires well for water
- No natural gas?

Experimental Farm on Trunk Road

This site has not been thoroughly investigated that I am aware of. The individual who would know is on leave all this week. This is what I would guess to be the case:

- Near Palmer inmates
- Natural gas available?
- Central location to ground transportation

- Limited level land available
- Facility would have to be built from "0"
- Anchorage inmates far away
- High wind exposure/temp. extremes

3/6/90

- Highest Benefit-Cost Scenario - Same or Higher level of production.
- Nursery —
- \* Concentrate on seedling production at Eagle River Facility.
  - \* Set aside acreage at Ft. McKenzie for provenance test and seed orchard.
  - \* Establish provenance testing/seed orchards in Tanana Basin (Delta Ag.) and Lower Yukon River (Native cooperators a possibility).
  - \* Use welfare program reform workers to supplant entry level worker needs.
- Reforestation —
- \* Establish a nursery "intern" program utilizing six "temporary" technician positions to be filled by residents of communities near cooperators.
  - \* Use contracts to do majority of site preparation and planting.
  - \* Cooperate with Native groups to secure local grants to enable hiring youth crews. (From BIA)
  - \* Consider small, local resident crews only where DOF has road net offices. Crew size should be limited to 5 people plus a dedicated technician so that the entire crew and their equipment fits into one vehicle such as a 6 pax. pickup.
  - \* Where welfare program reform allows, use crews of these individuals in lieu of "local resident" crew above. Technician still needed?

Rationale - Take advantage of existing facilities/maintenance/logistics at Eagle River. The site is large enough to accommodate any foreseeable program expansion needs. Provenance testing/seed production will identify best species for different conditions.

Train people where the activity is needed to do the work. State contracts and support for grant applications will provide a market for the individual trained to do the work. A predictable, steady flow of work will favor in-State worker use over "imported" labor.

3/6/90

## REFORESTATION OVERVIEW

The question has been asked as to what the Division would do if the Governor's \$500,000 CIP for backlog reforestation was granted plus the authorization to utilize \$250,000 annually in program receipts in addition to the present operational budget funding. The following is a preliminary analysis of the activities that would occur under that scenario.

Governor's CIP Request: NOTE - House Election Districts appear in "()". The Kenai Peninsula (5&6) would accomplish contracted site preparation on 50 acres and planting 38,000 seedlings on 70 acres. The Mat-Su (16) would accomplish contracted site preparation on 50 acres and planting 50,000 seedlings on 90 acres. Tok (17) would accomplish contracted site preparation on 855 acres, direct seed 80 acres and plant 104,500 seedlings on 190 acres. Delta (17) would accomplish contracted site preparation on 220 acres, direct seed 70 acres and plant 75,000 seedlings on 150 acres. Fairbanks (18&19) would accomplish contracted site preparation on 1242 acres, direct seed 220 acres and plant 654,500 seedlings on 1190 acres. Haines (2) would accomplish contracted site preparation on 155 acres and plant 81,000 seedlings on 155 acres. In the remainder of Southeast (1-4) there would be 26,000 seedlings planted on 50 acres. The regeneration center cost for seed collection and processing, and supplies for sowing/growing the seedlings are covered under the operating budget.

No projection of fund drawdown rate has been made. The rate of expenditure would depend largely on the method of regeneration proposed, weather, seedling availability, and staffing to prepare and administer contracts. The CIP would see some 1,039,000 seedlings grown and planted on State land. This would not completely eliminate the backlog of acres needing treatment. It would allow the Fairbanks Area increase the annual sales offerings back up to 8 million board foot once the program was completed. The per cent of the site preparation, seeding and planting backlog treated will be 31.8% for Northern Region, 12.5% for Southcentral Region, and 52.6% for Southeast Region. The backlog of acres requiring regeneration surveys or prescribed burning won't be addressed by the CIP.

Program Receipts Authorization: This money would be used to provide the continued production of 800,000 seedlings per year at the existing Eagle River Regeneration Center Facility. There would have to be personal services funding for one Maintenance Worker II that would be obligated to nursery maintenance (cost \$47.4), one Forest Technician IV (Assistant Nursery Manager at a cost of \$38.2) and one Forrest Technician III (Nursery Foreman at a cost of \$34.3).

One Forester I at Fairbanks would be added to assist in contract preparation/administration (cost \$46.0) and a similar position would be added at either Delta or Tok to cover those two areas needs (cost \$47.3). One Forester I would be added to Southcentral Region to assist in contract preparation/administration (cost \$42.2). The entire amount of the projected authorization would be taken up with personal services. Actually there would be some \$255,400 allocated under this proposal. Support monies for these positions would have to come from operating budgets for other programs under this scenario.

These positions would also enable earlier determination of areas needing treatment and reduce the impact of the addition efforts on the present staff. The nursery would be maintained on a timely basis. Inmate labor would be adequately supervised and what seedlings produced would be of high quality.

Ongoing Operating Budget Reforestation Program: This program will marginally keep pace with the present harvesting activities. The cost of the nursery to produce 800,000 seedlings per year are included under this item with the notable exception of adequate staffing. In Northern Region (House Districts 17,18,19) there would be 500 acres site prepared and planted and 660 acres where regeneration surveys would be completed. In Southcentral Region House Districts 5,6,16,24,26) there would be 115 acres site prepared, 55 acres direct seeded, 52 acres planted and 390 acres receiving regeneration surveys. In Southeast Region (House Districts 1,2,3,4,6) there would be 50 acres prescribed burned, 70 acres planted and 1100 acres receiving regeneration surveys.

What won't get done under this scenario?

The regeneration center won't be producing seedlings to assist native corporations and other interested landowners in reforesting their harvested, burned over or insect ravaged lands. There won't be local community or youth training programs in place. The efforts to take care of the backlog areas on State land, particularly around Fairbanks, will take several additional years to complete due to a shortage of field help. The nursery operation will continue to be short of dependable help - that is still dependent on inmate labor. Such areas as the Kenai insect infestation or future burns on State lands will not be reforested. State lands in the Tyonek area will remain in grass rather than return to a productive forest. Private individuals must secure their seedlings from "outside" nurseries. The State will not be a participant in tree improvement efforts.

STATE OF ALASKA  
1990 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL VERSION: HCR 54  
PUBLISH DATE: 2/12/90

### FISCAL NOTE

**REQUEST:**

Revision Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: Relating to the Alaska Youth Reforestation Corps  
Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_  
Requestor: House Resources

Agency Affected: Natural Resources  
BRU: Forest Management  
Components: Forest Management

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EQUIPMENT	100.0		2.0		2.0	
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>190.5</b>	<b>86.5</b>	<b>91.1</b>	<b>89.1</b>	<b>93.2</b>	<b>91.2</b>

CAPITAL						
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REVENUE						
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**FUNDING:** (Thousands of Dollars)

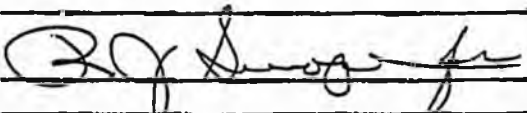
GENERAL FUND	190.5	86.5	91.1	89.1	93.2	91.2
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
<b>TOTAL</b>						

**POSITIONS:**

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

**ANALYSIS :** (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Prepared by: George K. Hollett Phone: 762-2503  
Division: Forestry Date: 3/13/90

Approved by Commissioner:  Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Distribution (by preparer):  
Legislative Finance  
Legislative Sponsor  
Requestor  
Office of Management and Budget  
Impacted Agency(ies)

## House Concurrent Resolution 54

Analysis:

The concept of having local youth volunteer to reforest state land is laudable. Whether the Department of Natural Resources can get anyone to volunteer is another question. The Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation who handles the Alaska Conservation Corps pays their program participants \$8.50 per hour plus providing room and board. If one has to pay for doing the hot, dirty and hard work of planting trees the cost of the program mounts rapidly.

Assumptions:

1. Will not hire crew members but use volunteers only.
2. Will not have any resident camps but work with local youth within travel distance of Fairbanks, Delta, Big Lake (Mat-Su) and Kenai. Four crews total.
3. Division of Forestry will need to extend a seasonal employee in each area to handle the required supervision for three months each.
4. Passenger vans at each area will be needed because fire vehicles will not be available to transport crews to planting.
5. Planting tools for each crew will be needed.
6. If crew size averages eight persons for the three summer months a total of possibly 150,000 seedlings per crew could be planted.
7. The State Forest Nursery will need to grow an additional 600,000 seedlings at no cost to this program.

Program Costs:Fairbanks Area:

Extend Forest Technician III 3 months -	\$ 8.9
Travel for recruiting volunteers -	2.0
contractual expenses to cover vehicle mileage, newspaper notices, postage, telephone, etc. -	10.0
Supplies for office -	1.5
Equipment will include a passenger van and planting tools -	<u>\$25.0</u>
Total First Year Cost:	\$47.4

Delta Area:

Extend Forest Technician III 3 months -	\$ 9.8
Travel for recruiting volunteers -	2.0
contractual expenses to cover vehicle mileage, newspaper notices, postage, telephone, etc. -	10.0
Supplies for office -	1.5
Equipment will include a passenger van and planting tools -	<u>\$25.0</u>
<b>Total First Year Cost:</b>	<b>\$48.3</b>

Big Lake:

Extend Forest Technician III 3 months -	\$ 8.8
Travel for recruiting volunteers -	2.0
contractual expenses to cover vehicle mileage, newspaper notices, postage, telephone, etc. -	10.0
Supplies for office -	1.5
Equipment will include a passenger van and planting tools -	<u>\$25.0</u>
<b>Total First Year Cost:</b>	<b>\$47.3</b>

Kenai:

Extend Forest Technician III 3 months -	\$ 9.0
Travel for recruiting volunteers -	2.0
contractual expenses to cover vehicle mileage, newspaper notices, postage, telephone, etc. -	10.0
Supplies for office -	1.5
Equipment will include a passenger van and planting tools -	<u>\$25.0</u>
<b>Total First Year Cost:</b>	<b>\$47.5</b>