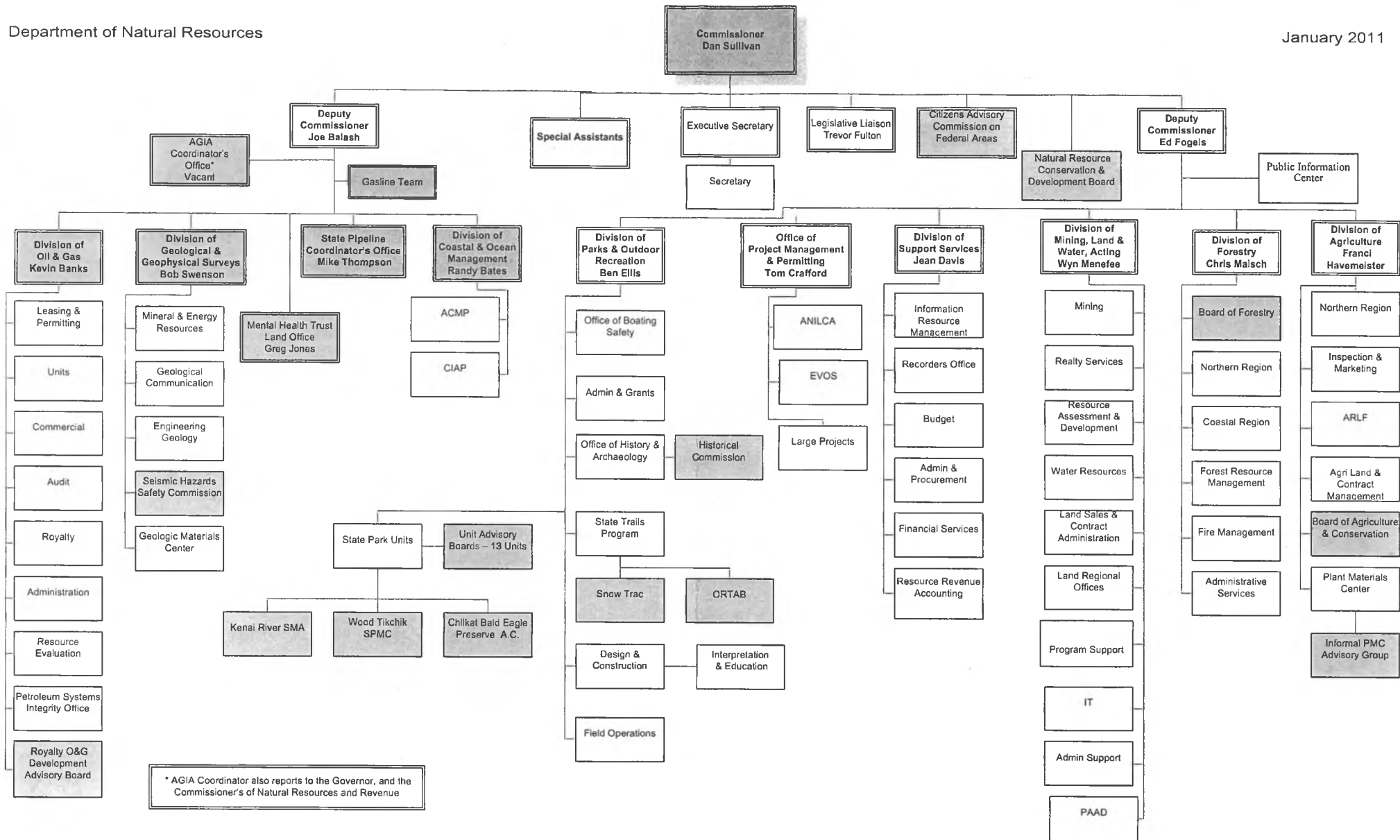
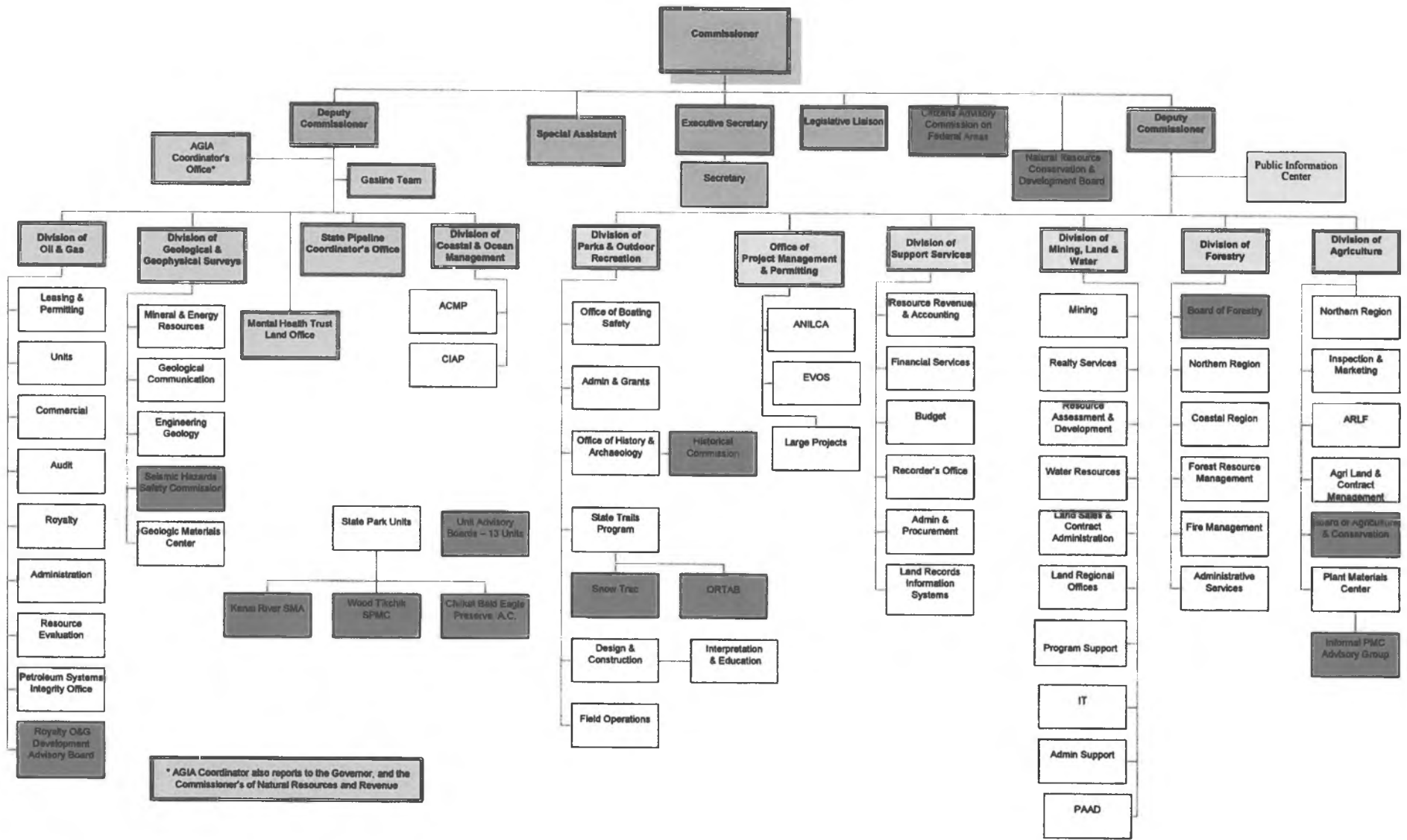


**1/19/11
OVERVIEWS: DNR
COMMISSIONER'S
OFFICE, DEPT.
OF AG, DEPT. OF
FORESTRY,
OFFICE OF
PROJECT
MANAGEMENT &
PERMITTING**

<TARGET><BILL></BILL><SUBJECT>1-19-11 OVERVIEWS DNR -
COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE, DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE, DEPT. OF
FORESTRY, OFFICE OF PROJECT MANAGEMENT and
PERMITTING</SUBJECT><COMM>HRES27</COMM></TARGET>





* AGIA Coordinator also reports to the Governor, and the Commissioner's of Natural Resources and Revenue

The Division of Agriculture



The Division's mission is to promote and encourage the development of an agriculture industry in the state.



Components of the Division of Agriculture

- Agriculture Development
- Agricultural Revolving Loan Fund (ARLF)
- Plant Materials Center (PMC)



Funding & Positions

FY10



- Three locations around the state
 - Main office – Palmer
 - Plant Material Center – Butte (Palmer)
 - Northern Region Office – Fairbanks
- 43 Employees
 - 34 full time positions
 - 9 seasonal
- Total budget - \$6,661,300.00



Agriculture Development



1. Marketing
2. Inspection Services
3. Land Management



Marketing



Market Development

- Alaska Grown Program
- Farm to School Program
- Industry Support
- Education & Outreach
- Conference Hosting
- Farmers Market Directory

Grants

- Specialty Crop Block Grants
- Federal-State Marketing improvement program



Industry Support



State of Alaska
Department of Natural Resources
Division of Agriculture

1800 Glenn Hwy Ste 13
Palmer, AK 99645
PH: 907-745-7240 Fax: 907-745-7234
www.alaska.gov/ag

Any publication was prepared by the Department of Natural Resources, Division of Agriculture. It is printed on 8.5x11 inch, 50% recycled paper with 10% post-consumer waste. The publication is printed on 100% recycled paper.

- Conference Facilitation
- Community outreach
- Alaska Grown Source Book
- Wholesale Newsletter
- Staff participation at conferences/events

Education & Outreach



- The Division partners with educators, agencies, and the private sector, to promote knowledge transfer within the industry.
- Support youth agriculture education programs:
 - Agriculture in the Classroom
 - FFA
 - 4-H
 - Teacher Education
 - Youth education events

Inspection Services

1. USDA Grade Inspection and Certification
2. Food Safety Audits:
 1. Good Handling Practices (GHP)
 2. Good Agricultural Practices (GAP)
3. Export Certification
Plant Health Inspections
4. Country of Origin
Labeling (COOL)
5. Cooperative Agricultural
Pest Survey (CAPS)



Land Management

➤ Land Sales

- 481 Acres of Ag land sold in FY 2010

➤ Grazing Leases

- 8 grazing leases, covering 100,477 acres

➤ Agriculture Leases

- 6 Ag leases covering 800 acres



Agricultural Revolving Loan Fund (ARLF)

➤ Statutorily established in AS 03.10.010

- Promote the more rapid development of agriculture as an industry throughout the State by means of long-term, low-interest loans.
- 57 years of continuous operation

➤ Types of Available Loans

- **Short Term** – *for annual operating expenses (fertilizer, etc.)*
- **Chattel** – *for purchase of equipment or livestock*
- **Farm Development** – *purchase of real property for agricultural use*
- **Irrigation** – *system purchase and installation*
- **Product Processing** – *to build and equip facilities for the processing of Alaskan agricultural products*
- **Clearing** – *for agriculture land clearing*



Northern Latitude Plant Materials Center



Mission:

To promote the use of Alaskan-produced agricultural crops for revegetation and seed production

Primary activities of the PMC:



- Foundation Seed Program
- Certified Potato Seed Program
- Certified Seed Laboratory
- Native Plant Evaluation
- High Latitude Germplasm Research
- Invasive Species Management
- Revegetation Technology / Design
- Conservation Plant Technology
- Seed Cleaning and Conditioning
- Ethnobotany Teaching Garden
- Rural Village Seed Production
- Training, Outreach, Publications
- Web Conference Hosting Facility

Certified Seed Potato Program

- Program is Industry requested and driven
- Assures pathogen-tested seed is available to certified seed growers.
- Planting seed of known quality is essential in potato production.
- Provide field certification inspections.
 - Required for legal sale of seed potatoes



Alaska Division of Forestry Overview

We create opportunities for our state's communities and residents by staying focused on our primary mission which is...

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

The Division of Forestry:

- Protects water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, and other forest values through best management practices and administration of the Forest Resources and Practices Act on private, municipal and state lands;
- Manages a wildland fire program on private, municipal and state lands and on federal and native lands contracted through agreement. Works with the Bureau of Land Management, Alaska Fire Service and the U.S. Forest Service to provide interagency coordination of program activities;
- Encourages development of the timber industry and forest products markets;
- Manages three state forests; the Southern Southeast, Haines and Tanana Valley State Forests (over two million acres);
- Conducts timber sales for commercial and personal use including fuelwood;
- Administers the Community Forestry, Conservation Education, Forest Health, and Forest Stewardship programs;
- Provides technical assistance to private forest landowners including Alaska Native Corporations;
- Works as a cooperating agency with the U.S. Forest Service to implement the 2008 Tongass Land Management Plan in support of Southeast communities and the forest industry;
- Provides wildland fire training and certification of individual fire fighters, and village/urban Type II and Type I fire crews;
- Assists local government with developing a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) and with implementation of hazard fuel risk reduction projects, while promoting use of removed woody fuels as biomass for space heating and electrical generation.

The office of State Forester is located in Fairbanks. The division also has a central office in Anchorage to provide policy and program direction, two regional offices, and eight area offices responsible for program support and field work. A nine member Board of Forestry provides leadership and advice on forest management issues and oversees the Forest Resources and Practice Act.

An annual report, strategic plan and statewide resources assessment and implementation plan are current documents that provide additional detail on programs and services of the Division and are available on the DOF website: <http://forestry.alaska.gov/>

The Division of Forestry is bound by the Alaska statutes and administrative code sections that directly govern forest management activities on state forest land.

Hot Topics

- **Governor's Office proposed legislation** for increasing the size of the newly established Southern Southeast state forest by approximately 23,181 acres. DOF is the lead on this legislation and is working closely with the GO to coordinate and to do public outreach. (see attached briefing paper for details)
- **2008 Tongass Land Management Plan (TLMP) implementation** effort which is centered on maintenance of an economic timber program and a viable wildlife management strategy. The state has official "Cooperating Agency" status with the U.S. Forest Service and has significant resources dedicated to this effort. The state has a Tongass Team that reaches across departments and speaks with one voice on Tongass related issues.
- **Personal use firewood** continues to be an issue in all areas of the state due to the limited access to state land. Despite this challenge, the Division continues to provide over 1,100 permits which equates to thousands of cords of wood.

Success Stories

- **Alaska Gateway School District Tok Woody Biomass Boiler** was officially dedicated on January 7, 2011. This project is the result of many partners working together to address needs of the community which included: economic opportunities for business, jobs, reduced energy costs, secure local fuel source, reduction of wildland fire risk. This project offsets 55,000 gallons of fuel oil per year and will utilize wood from 40 acres of hazard fuel treatments to heat the entire school. Stay tuned for more good news on the woody biomass front, over 30 projects statewide in either the operating, planning or design and construction phases. (see attached article for more on the Tok project)
- **New Growth, Prospectus for the Forest Products Industry of Interior Alaska** is an initiative to attract new investment to this sector of the economy. The project began in 2003 and is ongoing with our key partners: Fairbanks Economic Development Corporation, State Office of Economic Development, and Tanana Chiefs Conference, Inc. This joint effort was responsible for attracting Superior Pellets LLC to the Fairbanks area where a privately financed wood pellet mill opened this fall. The facility employs 15-20 staff. (Handout at meeting)
- **The Alaska Wildland Firefighter Academy** was jump started in 2010 by a grant from the Department of Labor and Workforce Development and support from numerous federal and native corporation partners. Academies were held in Tok and McGrath and 79 students received both basic and advanced training in a variety of wildland fire fighting skills. One of our key objectives is to bring our fire fighting jobs home. Each year we import many resources from the Lower-48 and with better training and support, more of these jobs can be filled by Alaskan's. Of particular note was the Tok academy, with many of its students fresh from high school graduation. These young men and woman lived in a field camp setting for three weeks and spent two weeks on the fire line. Of the 40 initial students, 38 graduated. Each student also received 9 credits toward an associate degree in Fire Science at UAF.

For further information contact State Forester John "Chris" Maisch, c 590-3190.

DNR Division of Forestry



Overview

House Resources Committee

January 2011

DNR's Mission

- Develop, conserve, and maximize the use of Alaska's Natural Resources consistent with the public interest.



DOF's Mission

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



FORESTRY

DOF's Role: Forest Resources

- ★ Support jobs in timber harvesting and processing
- ★ Manage sustainable forests 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.



DOF Budget and Staffing

- Forest Management and Development Component
- FY12 Governor's Operating Request \$6,848.7 (\$3,799 GF, \$1,287.2 Fed, \$876.4 Timber Rcpt, \$885.8 Other)
- Staffing 45 Full Time, 5 Part Time and 13 Temporary

DOF's Role: Fire Management

- ★ Provide wildland fire protection on state, private and municipal lands commensurate with values at risk
- ★ Ensure that the Division's wildland fire suppression resources are ready to safely and cost-effectively initial attack wildland fires.
- ★ Promote Community Wildfire Protection Planning and hazard fuel reduction projects
- ★ Provide wildland fire training



DOF Budget and Staffing

- Statewide Fire Suppression Program
RDU with two Components, FY12
Governor's Operating Budget Request
- Fire Suppression Preparedness
Component \$17,793.0 (\$15,719.1 GF,
\$1,360.6 Fed, \$713.3 Other)
- Fire Suppression Activity Component
\$13,623.7 (\$6,663.3 GF, \$5,460.4 Fed
\$1,500.0 Other)
- Staffing 33 Full Time, 181 Seasonal

Forestry Programs

- Forest Resources
 - Forest Management
 - Forest Practices
 - Forest Stewardship
 - Forest Health
 - Community Forestry
- Fire Management
 - Fire Preparedness
 - Fire Suppression
 - State Fire Assistance
 - Volunteer Fire Assistance

Forest Management Program

- Manages forest resources on all forested state land (47 MM acres)
- Lead agency for planning and management of Tanana Valley, Haines and Southeast State Forests (2 MM ac)



Stariski R. tributary

Forest Practices Program

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



Tyone R.

Board of Forestry



- Governor-appointed Board
- DOF apprises the Board of key forest practices issues.
- DOF annually compiles data from all 3 agencies and reports to the Board on the effectiveness of the FRPA

Timber industry
Mining industry
Foresters
Recreationists

Fishing industry
Native corporations
Fish & wildlife scientists
Environmentalists

Fire Preparedness Program

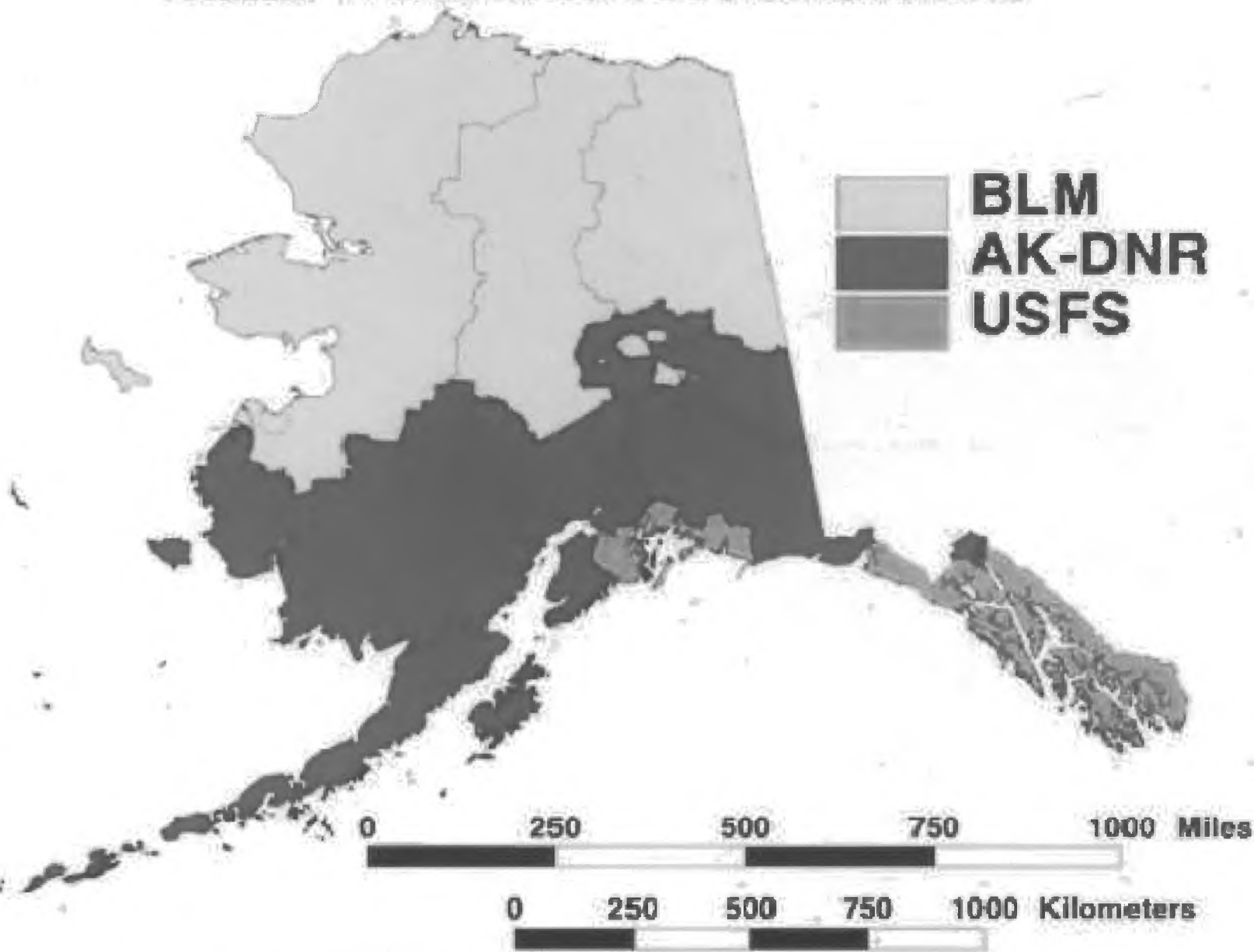
- DOF protects 152 Million acres -- almost all of the roaded area of the State, where most Alaskans live.
- Average annual responses to wildland fire = 488
- Average annual acreage burned = 521,693

Fire Preparedness Program

- DOF is responsible for managing wildland fire on state, private and municipal land.
- DOF cooperates with the federal Bureau of Land Management , Alaska Fire Service, U.S. Forest Service and structure fire departments



Alaska Wildland Fire Protection Areas



Hot Topics

- Governor's Southern Southeast State Forest Legislation (Briefing paper handout)
- 2008 Tongass Land Management Plan Implementation Project
- Personal Use Firewood

Success Stories

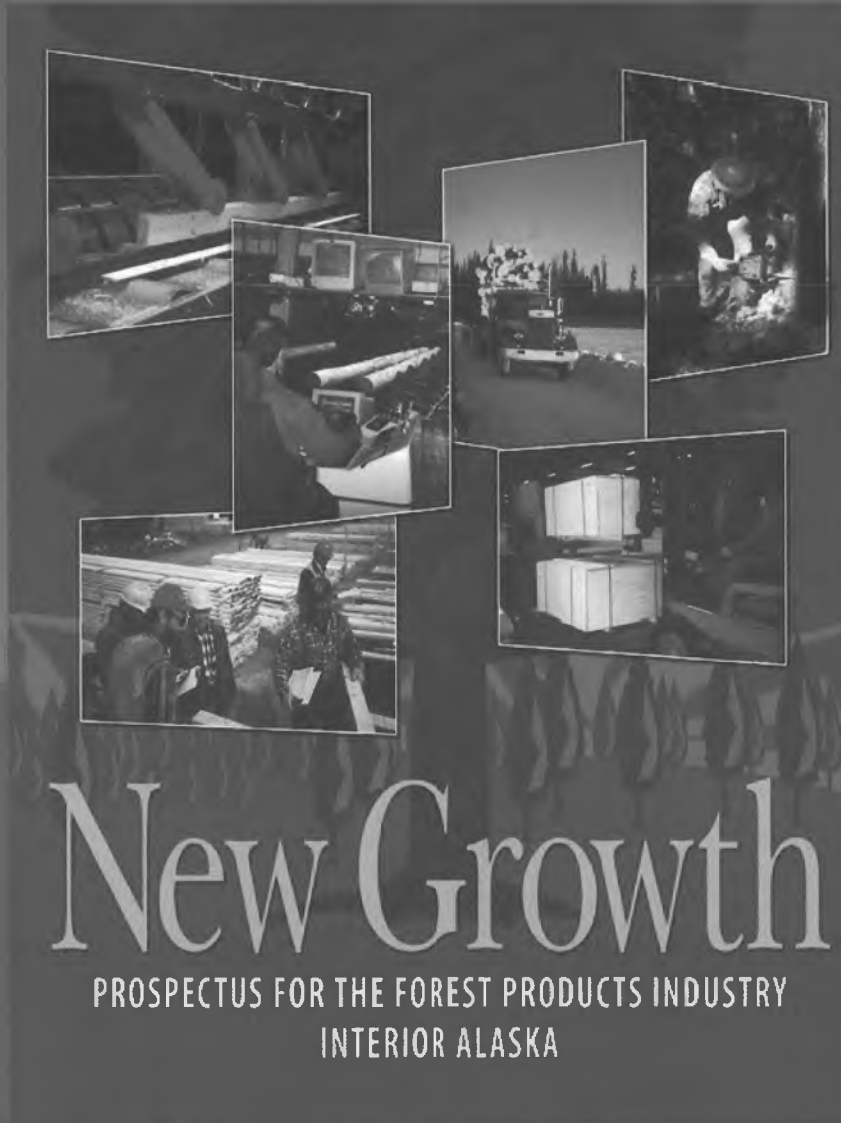
Alaska Gateway
School District, Tok
Woody Biomass
Boiler



- Offsets 55,000 gallons of fuel oil per year



Success Stories



- Project attracted new investment to Fairbanks with construction of a wood pellet mill
- Approximately 15-20 jobs and \$\$7-12 million private investment

Success Stories



Alaska Wildland Fire
Academy, Tok 2010

- 39 Graduates
- 9 Credits toward
associate degree in
Fire Science UAF



Alaskan Community to Benefit for Years to Come From Local Wood Energy Project



Students from the Tok School holding up woodchips that are used to fire the boiler. *Photo: DOF*

Alaska winter months are cold, but the children going to school in Tok are warmed by the very trees that have been removed to protect them, and wiser about the immense northern boreal forest surrounding the community.

On October 29, 2010, the woodchip-fired boiler at the Tok School was lit for the first time. Almost exactly three years after the project's conception, the boiler is an example of community determination and serves as a potential model for rural Alaska living. Its operation is also timely as temperatures drop and the days become shorter. If the school's heat wasn't coming from the woodchips, it would be coming from 65,000 gallons of fuel oil each year.

Three years ago, the price of fuel in Alaska sky-rocketed and costs for heating oil were well over \$3.00/gallon. The greatest impacts were experienced in rural communities. Money that would otherwise be put towards the Kindergarten-12th grade education in Tok was being used in oil-fired boilers to provide heat and hot water at the school. The statewide economic concerns weighed heavily on Tok residents and created the momentum needed to combine large-scale community based forest management with hazard fuel reduction to create a useable product.

Alaska Division of Forestry (DOF) Area Forester, Jeff Hermanns, was living and working in Tok when state and local interests began to shift toward wood energy. The interest was accompanied by a widespread recognition of Alaska's abundance of biomass. Hermanns felt the need to pursue local wood energy options, but it was only one blade of a double-edged sword for Tok. While winter temperatures can dip to -60 Fahrenheit and the sun barely makes it over the horizon, summers are the exact opposite. Fire is at the heart of the boreal ecosystem, like few others in North America. Hot, dry temperatures and lightning busts, combined with a sea of mature white and black spruce trees, make for flammable, dangerous fire situations.

The forest does not end where the community starts; the wildlands continue through even the most developed parts of town, totaling almost 40,000 acres of continuous fuels that are ready to burn. Human-caused fires also pose a threat. Recreational fires, off-road vehicles, open burning, and a range of other human activities serve as sources of ignitions, especially in the wildland urban interface. Developing a use for the hazardous forest fuels significantly reduces the cost of fuel reduction treatments, enabling more acreage to be completed.

Hazard fuel reduction efforts, carried out in many ways, have been ongoing in the Tok area and surrounding Alaska Native villages (such as Tanacross, Tetlin and Northway) for several years. The projects have been in conjunction with other agency and community partners, including the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) Tetlin Wildlife



The road is a dividing line between a treated fuel reduction area on State land and the untreated forest on private land. *Photo: DOF*



2010 Eagle Trail Fire. Photo: Clinton Northway

Refuge, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Individual landowners are encouraged to create defensible space around their homes and other values. Additional agency support and guidance has been provided when necessary, including the Senior Citizens Defensible Space project. Large-scale fuel breaks have been created around Tok and Tanacross.

All of the efforts help, but are still not enough. In the past 25 years, nearly 2 million acres have burned in the area and portions of Tok have been evacuated a half a dozen times at a cost of over 60 million dollars in fire suppression activities. The 2010 season was no different, due to the Eagle Trail Fire that endangered Tok and Tanacross and required evacuations.

In 2006, a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) was developed by DOF, FWS, the Tok Community Umbrella Corp. (a local Tok non-profit entity), the Tok Chamber of Commerce, the Tok Volunteer Fire Department and private citizens. In the CWPP, the school was identified as the community evacuation center, but it turned out to be one of the most dangerous places to send people because of the dense forest surrounding it. Nobody could grasp the full magnitude of danger bearing down on the school/evacuation center until the property was assessed for hazardous fuel removal and biomass per acre was quantified. Additionally, access was limited with only one point of entrance/exit. The School Board recognized that something had to be done and approved the thinning of 50 acres around the school. The FWS provided 55 thousand dollars to implement the project and DOF provided expertise.



Pre-thinned (left), post-thinned (right) forest. Photos: DOF

The double-edged sword became the motivation to slice through obstacles and set the stage for the boiler proposal to gain momentum, turning the liability into an incredible asset. Foresters knew that the woods surrounding the school were thick and fire hazard was extreme, but their knowledge of biomass availability was primarily based on models. Once they started taking measurements on the ground, they realized there was a lot more biomass than they anticipated. Inventory plots were established on the acres surrounding the school and, according to Hermanns, "the results were incredible. Our concept of how much fuel was out there was drastically off." The original estimate was that there would be about 5-6 tons/acre available for removal, however when accounting for whole tree utilization, down to the smallest diameter tree, there were 35-180 tons/acre. The University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) and USDA Pacific Northwest Researchers teamed up with DOF on projects in Tok to determine how much biomass is in the interior Alaska forest in the Tok area.

Additional groundwork needed to be completed before the woodchips would be accepted as an alternative for heating the school. Thinning around the school would provide fuel for a full year, and DOF already had several years' worth of wood stored up. However, the amount of biomass available for the long-term needed to be considered. "We identified all of the available wood that was around town that nobody had ever stopped to think about," Hermanns said. Other available sources that were identified for future use include: two local sawmills (the edgings, slabs, and other waste that is left after the milling process is enough to heat the school each year); leftovers from timber sales that otherwise have no marketable value and usually are burned on site; trees removed in land clearing that are either buried or burned; fire salvage; trees from individual landowner Firewise

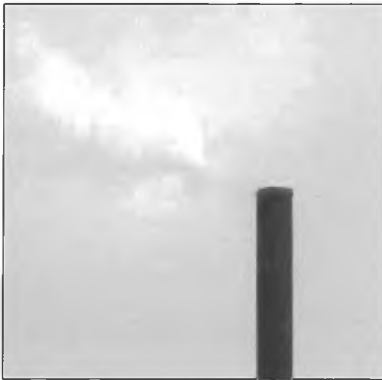
projects that people bring to “the pit” at the DOF Tok Area Office where it used to be burned; and trees from large-scale future hazard fuel mitigation projects. The list goes on, and there is far more biomass available than this project will ever be able to use.

Hermanns feels strongly that “if you want to do a wood energy project, you have to go out and determine what your fuel is, and then design your project around it. Don’t start by saying what boiler you want. The concept for ours was that the average tree size is only three inches in diameter. With that small of a tree, you can’t handle it piece by piece, tree by tree. You have to be able to process whole trees and something like 20 at a time.”

If you want to do a wood energy project, you have to go out and determine what your fuel is, and then design your project around it.

- Jeff Hermanns, DOF

The conventional wisdom at the time of the project’s start was that only bole-wood could be used while limbs, bark and other debris would have to be excluded. Through research and looking at other examples in the United States where industrial-size wood-fired boilers are operating, Hermanns discovered that whole-tree utilization, including slash and green fuel, is occurring successfully. After learning more about the existing possibilities, samples of ground-up Alaskan trees were sent to CTA Architectural and Engineering to be analyzed for density, moisture content, energy value and ash content. Results showed it to be a good source of fuel.



Steam released out of the boiler facility. Photo: DOF

Air quality also needed to be addressed up front. A system that generates a lot of smoke would not be a viable option in an environment that has the potential for smoke from summer fires, has an estimated 40-50 local home-heating outdoor wood boilers already installed in the area, and has the ability for air to be trapped by subzero inversions in the winter. Two other large, industrial biomass boilers are also in use within 100 miles of Tok: one at Dry Creek and one at Kenny Lake. When fed and operated correctly, steam is produced and there is little smoke. Findings with the Dry Creek and Kenny Lake boilers were consistent with those in the eastern United States. Back east, biomass boilers are used to heat public facilities and the big questions have already been asked. “We were not dealing with an unknown entity,” Hermanns said. The Tok system uses technology that not only helps mitigate smoke output by keeping the boiler running efficiently, but also has a component that “zaps” smoke

out of the exhaust. The technology utilized, known as electrostatic precipitation, electrically charges exhaust particles and removes them from the exhaust steam.

Once initial research was done, Hermanns worked with the Executive Director and Superintendent for the Alaska Gateway School District (Tok School), the Alaska Energy Authority, and CTA Architectural and Engineering, to submit a successful application for a 2.5 million dollar renewable energy grant from the State of Alaska. The Tok Community Umbrella Corp., through Governor Palin’s Administration and the Alaska Legislature, obtained a 500 thousand dollar grant in 2008 for a Rotochopper horizontal grinder and other heavy equipment to process the trees into burnable woodchips. Most recently, the Tok School received 345 thousand dollars from Governor Parnell’s Administration and the Alaska Legislature for a reciprocating steam piston engine. The piston will be powered by steam from the boiler to generate electricity to run the boiler and other processing equipment. Additional electricity will be used to help meet the school’s needs and work is being done with the local utility company to establish a power purchase agreement.



The Rotochopper processing whole trees and depositing the woodchips into the school’s hockey rink for storage. Photo: DOF



Left: The building that houses the woodchip-fired boiler and its equipment-under construction. Right: The completed facility. Photos: DOF



Woodchips. Photos: DOF

The facility was designed by CTA Architectural and Engineering from Montana, while the general building contractors were from Alaska. The facility contains custom designed conveyance and control systems, supplied by Messersmith Manufacturing, that feed a Hurst, 5 million BTU, high-pressure steam boiler. The system will offset all of the heat and eventually much of the electrical demand for the school.

Now that the Hurst boiler has been lit, it will produce 4.5 million BTUs/hour. It almost completely replaces the two oil-fired boilers; however, the oil-fired boiler system is fully intact and is set to come back online if the woodchip-fired boiler goes offline. The oil-fired boilers may also be required for limited heating on some of the coldest days of the year when temperatures can reach -60 or below. The woodchip-fired boiler will displace 90-95 percent of the oil usage and the money will be used for other purposes within the school district. This year, the school will save approximately 125 thousand dollars in the difference between the fuel oil and woodchips. The biomass transportation and processing also puts money directly into the local economy. Over the thirty year plus life of the system, this adds up to be significant dollars that are saved by the Tok School and kept in the local economy.



Hermanns and the boiler. Photos: DOF

In a town as small as Tok (population of roughly 1,500), the school is also a community center. The project has created the opportunity to further educate students and community members about Firewise concepts and fire. The school is now a visual example of defensible space. Students are also learning about community/urban forestry concepts, healthy forest management practices, and forest science. They have not only seen trees being taken out of the forest and used for heating, they have also had the opportunity to grow seedlings and plant new trees. "We have made a concerted effort over the past four years to educate kids about the science of forestry- how a forest grows, how fire plays a role in the ecosystem, what we use wood products for. There are a lot of misconceptions, and we live in the midst of one of the largest forests in the world. Fires



The boiler in action! Photos: DOF



Left: A new tree has been added to the school grounds. Right: DOF Community Forestry outreach opportunities help kids learn about tree planting, care and science. Photos: DOF

threaten our homes regularly,” Hermanns said. “Taking kids outside to put their hands in the soil and plant trees helps them to understand the process. Forests grow back, and the kids have a sense of ownership because they planted those trees.”

In addition to teaching people about the forest, two US Forest Service Forest health grants have been awarded for studies that are ongoing to monitor the effects of *Ips perturbatus* (ips beetles) and *Dendroctonus rufipennis* (spruce bark beetles) on thinned plots. There is a lot of variability, but preliminary studies have shown that no major outbreaks have occurred thus far.

Rural subsistence is an important aspect of life in Tok. Habitat enhancement is a component of the planning and has been accounted for through the forest stand conversions. The thick, climax white and black spruce forest now contains the aspen, birch, poplar and willow that moose and grouse prefer. Short biomass rotations are being studied by DOF and UAF, with 15-20 year rotations, and are being considered in regards to maintenance of the fuel breaks. The idea is to try to maintain species that are less inclined to carry fire and instead serve as a buffer between the community and the spruce.

The woodchip-fired boiler is just the beginning of an alternative energy movement in the community. It is a model of how local resources can be utilized, costs can be reduced, and the economy can be supported. It has also paved the way for additional projects to begin. After all, who wouldn't be motivated by saving millions of dollars over the course of the next 30 years, protecting a community and its school children, employing locals in the process, and promoting healthy forest practices and management? The once dangerous liability is now the power of Tok's future.

Contact:

Jeff Hermanns, Area Forester, Alaska Division of Forestry, Jeffrey.hermanns@alaska.gov, 907-883-5134
Story by, Maggie Rogers, Information, Alaska Division of Forestry (11/15/10)

Project Cooperators:

Alaska Division of Forestry (Patricia Joyner, Community Forestry/Roger Burnside, Forest Health Protection)
Alaska Energy Authority (Ron Brown, Project Manager)
Alaska Gateway School District (Scott MacManus, Project Manager/Todd Poage, Superintendent)
Owner's Representative (Rex Goolsby, Construction Administrator)
Tok Community Umbrella Corp. (Kathy Morgan, President)
Tok School (LeAnn Young, Principal)
University of Alaska Fairbanks (Dr. Jingjing Liang, Asst. Professor Forest Management/Tom Malone, Research Forester)
US Fish and Wildlife Service Tetlin Wildlife Refuge (Peter Butteri, Fire Management Officer)
USDA Forest Service PNW Research Station (Hans Andersen, Forest Inventory and Analysis)

Public Briefing:
Additional Lands to Southeast State Forest
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES --



Alaska Department of
**NATURAL
RESOURCES**

December 20, 2010
DIVISION OF FORESTRY

Background. Pursuant to SCSHB 162(RES), the 25,291 acre Southeast State Forest was established in June 2010. These forest lands will be managed as an integrated unit and according to a state forest management plan. While the lands were previously available for timber harvest before the State Forest was established, the State Forest designation ensures these productive forest lands will remain in state ownership and contribute to the long term viability of the timber based economy in southeast.

An additional 23,181 acres of State lands in the southern southeast have been identified as appropriate for inclusion into the Southeast State Forest. The Department of Natural Resources manages over 159,000 acres of uplands in southern southeast Alaska. Timber management is allowed on approximately one third of this land; the State actively manages this timber base to supply wood to local processors. The remaining land is designated primarily for other uses including land sales, recreation, water resources, and fish and wildlife habitat, including over 25,000 acres of legislatively designated state parks, refuges, and public use areas.

Adding lands to the State Forest will ensure that the State's most suitable lands in Southeast remain available to contribute to timber supply through the State's ongoing timber sale program. Much of the State owned timber land in southeast Alaska was inherited from the U.S. Forest Service and is comprised of young, second-growth stands. Actively-managed second-growth stands provide more timber volume per acre on shorter rotations and can result in improved deer browse than unmanaged stands. We can increase timber yield and associated timber supply from state land by thinning these stands. Thinning is a long-term investment and is only justified if the land will continue to be available for forest management.

Purpose. This bill would add an additional 23,181 acres of State lands to the Southeast State Forest from lands currently available for timber harvest. The Division of Forestry would then be able to manage the 48,472 acres of Southeast State Forest lands for a long-term supply of timber and retain these lands in state ownership for multiple uses.

Proposed Additions to Southeast State Forest. The proposed additions to the Southeast State Forest include 23 parcels totaling approximately 23,181 acres (see chart). Approximately 21 percent of these lands are from five parcels that had previously been reserved pending legislative transfer to the University of Alaska. That legislation did not pass freeing these lands for long-term forest management in the State Forest. The legislation includes general use lands on Prince of Wales, Tuxekan, Gravina, Kosciusko, Revillagiedo, Wrangell, Suemez, Mitkof, Kuiu, Dall, and Zarembo Islands. Six of these parcels are adjacent or near existing State Forest parcels. The Division of Forestry worked with the Division of Mining, Land, and Water to identify and exclude lands that are priorities for the state land disposal program.

State Forest Management. The Southeast State Forest will be managed as part of the State Forest System under AS 41.17.200-.230. Lands in the State Forest will continue to be open for multiple uses, including wildlife habitat and harvest and recreational activities. State Forest lands will be managed consistent with the management intent under the current Prince of Wales Island Area Plan, Prince of Wales Island Area Plan Amendment, and Central/Southern Southeast Area Plan. Changes to management intent would require public and interagency review through adoption of a State Forest Management Plan under AS 41.17.230.

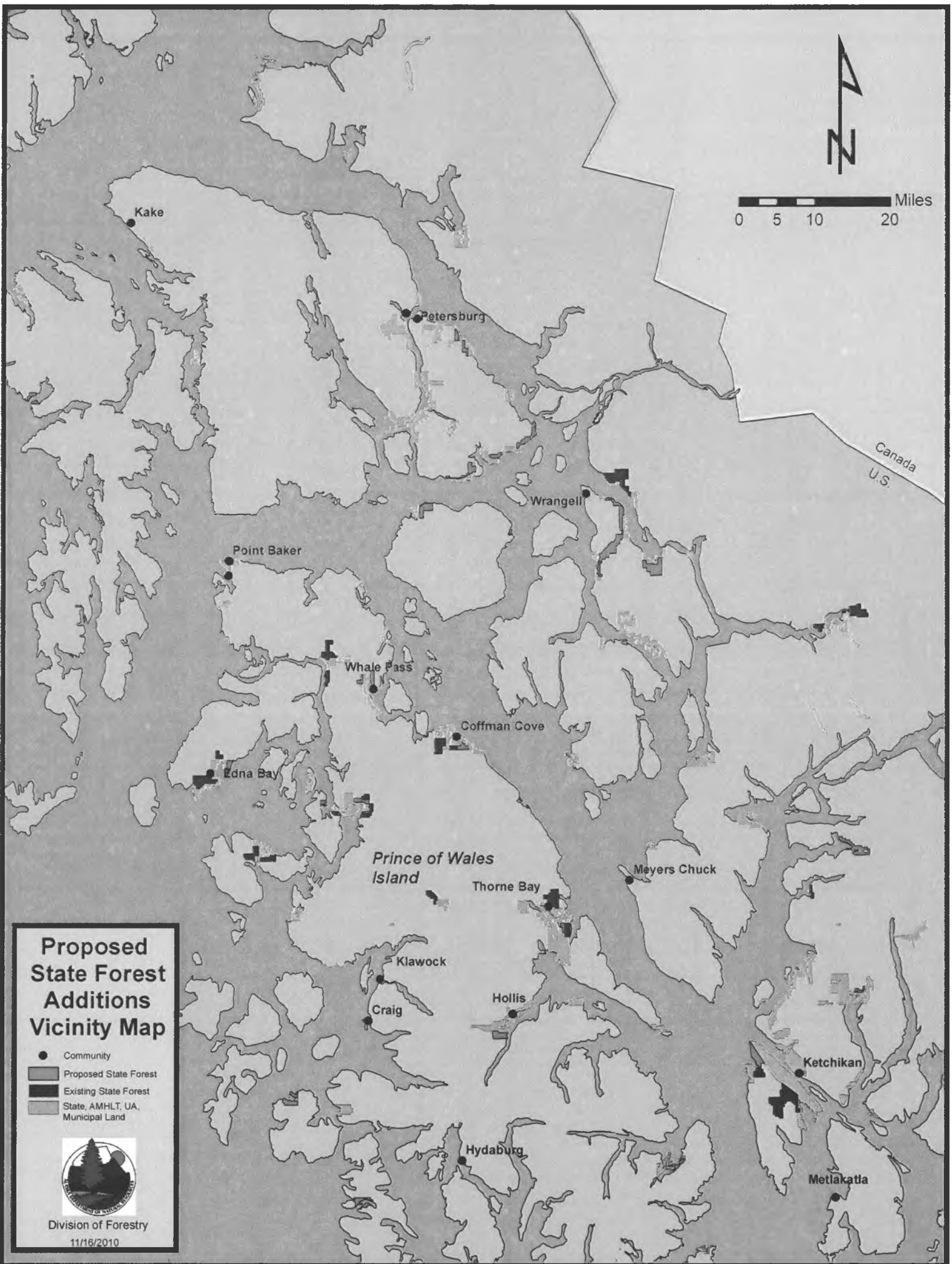
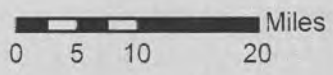
Municipal Entitlements. The City and Borough of Wrangell boundary encompasses five parcels in the proposed state forest additions (St. Johns Harbor, Eastern Passage, Pat Creek, Pat Creek Uplands and Earl

West Cove). A State Forest designation will not affect the amount or location of land the Wrangell Borough can select. That determination is based on the maximum total acreage of vacant, unappropriated, unreserved land in the borough boundaries within two years after the date of incorporation (AS 29.65.030). However, a borough would not normally be able to select land within a State Forest. To avoid conflicts with the Wrangell entitlement, the Southeast State Forest bill specifies that the Wrangell Borough may select State Forest land within the borough boundary.

If new municipalities are incorporated before June 30, 2019, lands that were vacant, unappropriated, unreserved land before establishment of the State Forest will be included in the calculation of the municipal entitlement acreage, but may not be selected.

SOUTHEAST STATE FOREST ADDITIONS			
Plan Unit	Acreage	General Location	Island
Prince of Wales Island Area Plan and Amendment			
8b	617	Kosciusko Island/ Edna Bay	Kosciusko
7c	786	Naukati	Prince of Wales
7b	345	Tuxekan	Tuxekan
6a	597	Coffman Cove	Prince of Wales
5a	972	Whale Pass	Prince of Wales
13b	523	Kitkun Bay	Prince of Wales
12b	1,002	Indian Creek	Prince of Wales
11c	280	Thorne Bay South	Prince of Wales
D-01	1,063	Port Delores	Suemez
D-02	985	Hook Arm	Dall Island
Central/Southern Southeast Area Plan			
K01, K02	1,885	Neets Bay	Revillagegedo
K11	332	Leask Cove	Revillagegedo
K25	1,487	North Gravina Island	Gravina
P23	1,264	Favor Peak (E Mitkoff)	Mitkoff
P25	467	South Mitkof	Mitkoff
P27	1,040	Woodpecker	Mitkoff
P28	867	Frederick Point	Mitkoff
U02	652	Rowan Bay	Kuiu
W02	1,266	St. Johns Harbor	Zarembo
W08	1,411	Eastern Passage	Wrangell Is.
W10	2,601	Pat Creek	Wrangell Is.
W12	2,320	Earl West Cove	Wrangell Is.
W27	419	Pat Creek Uplands	Wrangell Is.
TOTAL	23,181	23 parcels	

Shaded parcels are from prior University Land bill



Proposed State Forest Additions Vicinity Map

- Community
- Proposed State Forest
- Existing State Forest
- State, AMHLT, UA, Municipal Land



Division of Forestry
11/16/2010

New Growth



*Prospectus for the Forest Products
Industry of Interior Alaska*



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STATE OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
JUNEAU

March 2007

Dear Forest Products Investor:

As Governor of the great State of Alaska, I am pleased to introduce the New Growth prospectus, inviting you to examine an exciting commercial and industrial opportunity in Alaska. The vast commercial timber resources of Alaska's interior constitute a virtually untapped potential for economic development. An abundance of birch, white spruce, and quaking aspen blanket the Interior. My administration looks forward to working with companies like yours to see these resources developed for the benefit of Alaskans and to improve the health of our interior forests.

The state's Division of Forestry, the Office of Economic Development, various Native forest landowners, the Fairbanks North Star Borough, and the Fairbanks Economic Development Corporation have been working together to promote economic development opportunities in the Tanana Valley region. This prospectus reflects that cooperation and provides you with basic information to examine the possibilities for your company to invest in these opportunities. In addition to forest resource data, the prospectus includes basic market and transportation information that we hope will be useful in making a preliminary investment decision.

The State of Alaska is currently performing a stand-level inventory to further define the available timber. We stand ready to assist you in your evaluation of the prospects and develop any additional information you may need to begin making new investments in our state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sarah Palin".

Sarah Palin
Governor



The commercial forests of the Interior are composed of pure stands and mixtures of white spruce, black spruce, paper birch, quaking aspen, and balsam poplar.



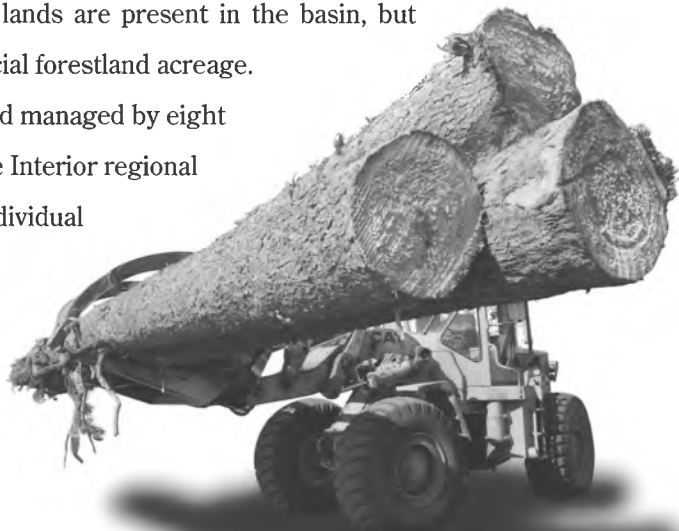
Forest and Land Ownership

Large tracts of both public and private lands occur in Interior Alaska. The Interior is a large area of Alaska that occupies the central part of the state. It extends from the Canadian border westward to the Bering Sea and lies between the Alaska and Brooks Ranges. The city of Fairbanks is considered the hub of this vast area. The Tanana Basin is located in the eastern portion of the Interior and contains forests that extend 265 miles from the Canadian border to the village of Tanana on the Yukon River. Within this area, the State of Alaska manages 2.94 million acres¹ of commercial forestlands including the Tanana Valley State Forest (TVSF). The TVSF contains 1.77 million acres² of commercial forestlands.

The Fairbanks North Star Borough, the University of Alaska Trust Lands, and the Mental Health Trust Lands are other tracts of public forestland in the basin. Within a 50-mile radius of Fairbanks, these three landowners have a combined acreage of 77,987 acres³ of commercial forestland. Federal lands are present in the basin, but contribute only small amounts of commercial forestland acreage.

Private lands are chiefly owned and managed by eight individual Alaska Native Corporations. The Interior regional Native corporation, Doyon Limited, and individual village corporations own and manage approximately one-half million acres⁴ of commercial forestland in the basin.

See map, p 4-5.



State and Private Commercial Forest Volumes

The Tanana Valley State Forest and lands classified for forest management under the Tanana Basin Area Plan are divided into four management jurisdictions: Kantishna, Fairbanks, Delta and Tok. Overall net standing commercial volume on these lands is 3,869 MMBF. See the annual allowable cut figures for each of the four areas in Table 1 and the net standing volume figures in Table 2.

Volume estimates for these lands are subject to change as a result of the new inventory update now under way. Forest land area to be updated includes state forest and forestry classified lands between Healy Lake and Manley. New volume numbers are scheduled to be produced by the end of 2007. The inventory will also be enhanced by the addition of new imagery and web access for timber stand viewing and querying.

Private lands, represented mainly by Alaska Native Corporations, have annual harvest levels calculated for individual ownerships. Overall net standing commercial volume on these lands is 1,786 MMBF. See the annual allowable cut figures for the individual areas in Table 3, and the net standing volume figures in Table 4.

State Land – Tanana Valley Timber

Table 1
Annual Cut

	Spruce	Birch	Aspen
Kantishna	4.6 mmcf 18.2 mmbf	4.3 mmcf 12.9 mmbf	1.6 mmcf 4.8 mmbf
Fairbanks	6.2 mmcf 24.6 mmbf	4.0 mmcf 12.0 mmbf	2.1 mmcf 6.3 mmbf
Delta	5.2 mmcf 20.6 mmbf	3.6 mmcf 10.8 mmbf	1.2 mmcf 3.7 mmbf
Tok	2.7 mmcf 10.8 mmbf	0.4 mmcf 1.2 mmbf	0.4 mmcf 1.2 mmbf
Total cf	18.6 mmcf	12.3 mmcf	5.4 mmcf
Total bf	74.3 mmbf	36.8 mmbf	16.2 mmbf

note: cut is regulated by cubic ft., spruce converted at 4 bf/cf, hardwood at 3 bf/cf; mm = million

Table 2
Net Standing Volume

	Spruce	Birch	Aspen
Kantishna	233 mmcf 729 mmbf	208 mmcf 50 mmbf	80 mmcf 14 mmbf
Fairbanks	308 mmcf 933 mmbf	193 mmcf 158 mmbf	101 mmcf 82 mmbf
Delta	399 mmcf 1,017 mmbf	227 mmcf 148 mmbf	78 mmcf 38 mmbf
Tok	250 mmcf 645 mmbf	33 mmcf 11 mmbf	36 mmcf 4 mmbf
Total cf	1,190 mmcf	622 mmcf	295 mmcf
Total bf	3,365 mmbf	367 mmbf	137 mmbf

*note: Board feet by scribner rule, 16ft. logs, 10 in. minimum tree diameter
Cubic feet 6 in. minimum tree diameter. mm=million*

Timber Sale Options & Methods

Public Lands

The Division of Forestry can sell timber under the five methods listed in Table 5. Most sales are sold by competitive, sealed bid, but timber sales can be negotiated under certain



Alaska Native Corporation Land – Tanana Valley Timber

Table 3
Annual Cut

	Spruce	Hardwood
Dot Lake	0.2 mmcf 0.5 mmbf	0.2 mmcf 0.1 mmbf
Healy Lake	0.2 mmcf 0.6 mmbf	0.3 mmcf 0.4 mmbf
Manley	0.2 mmcf 0.4 mmbf	0.3 mmcf 0.6 mmbf
Nenana	0.1 mmcf 0.4 mmbf	0.4 mmcf 0.6 mmbf
Northway	0.1 mmcf 0.1 mmbf	0.1 mmcf 0.1 mmbf
Tanacross	0.1 mmcf 0.1 mmbf	0.1 mmcf 0.1 mmbf
Tetlin	0.5 mmcf 1.8 mmbf	0.1 mmcf 0.1 mmbf
Tanana	1.1 mmcf 3.8 mmbf	0.6 mmcf 1.1 mmbf
Doyon/Katishna River	0.2 mmcf 0.6 mmbf	0.2 mmcf 0.4 mmbf
Doyon/Upper Tanana	0.2 mmcf 0.4 mmbf	0.9 mmcf 0.6 mmbf
Total cf	2.9 mmcf	3.1 mmcf
Total bf	9.1 mmbf	3.6 mmbf

Table 4
Net Standing Volume

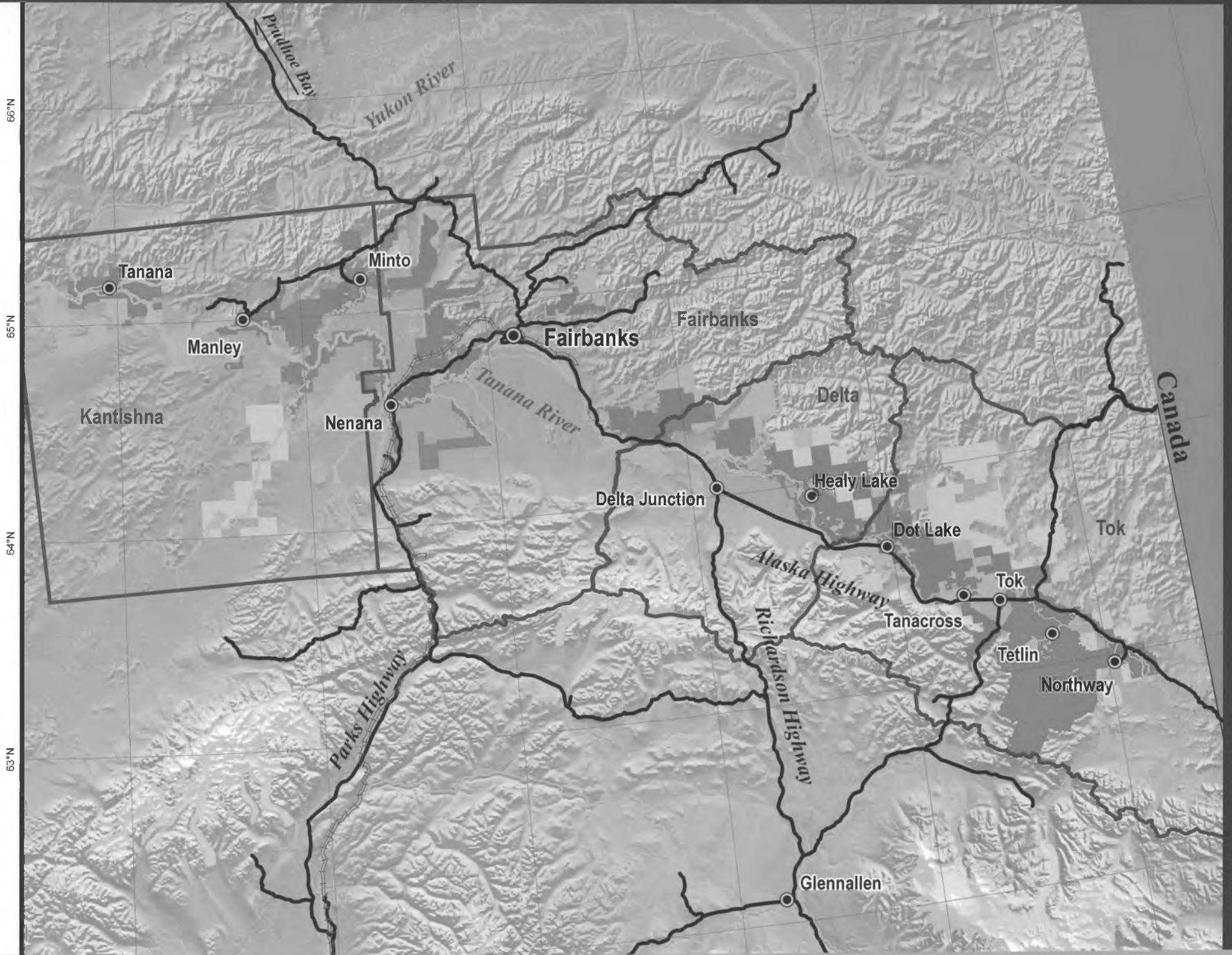
	Spruce	Hardwood
Dot Lake	26 mmcf 65mmbf	208 mmcf 50 mmbf
Healy Lake	39 mmcf 102 mmbf	193 mmcf 158 mmbf
Manley	24 mmcf 73 mmbf	227 mmcf 148 mmbf
Nenana	25 mmcf 81 mmbf	33 mmcf 11 mmbf
Northway	10 mmcf 19 mmbf	9 mmcf 6 mmbf
Tanacross	13 mmcf 14 mmbf	5 mmcf 3 mmbf
Tetlin	75 mmcf 265 mmbf	10 mmcf 2 mmbf
Tanana	152 mmcf 520 mmbf	68 mmcf 123 mmbf
Doyon/Katishna River	33 mmcf 88 mmbf	40 mmcf 54 mmbf
Doyon/Upper Tanana	111 mmcf 216 mmbf	90 mmcf 59 mmbf
Total cf	508 mmcf	325 mmcf
Total bf	1,443 mmbf	343 mmbf

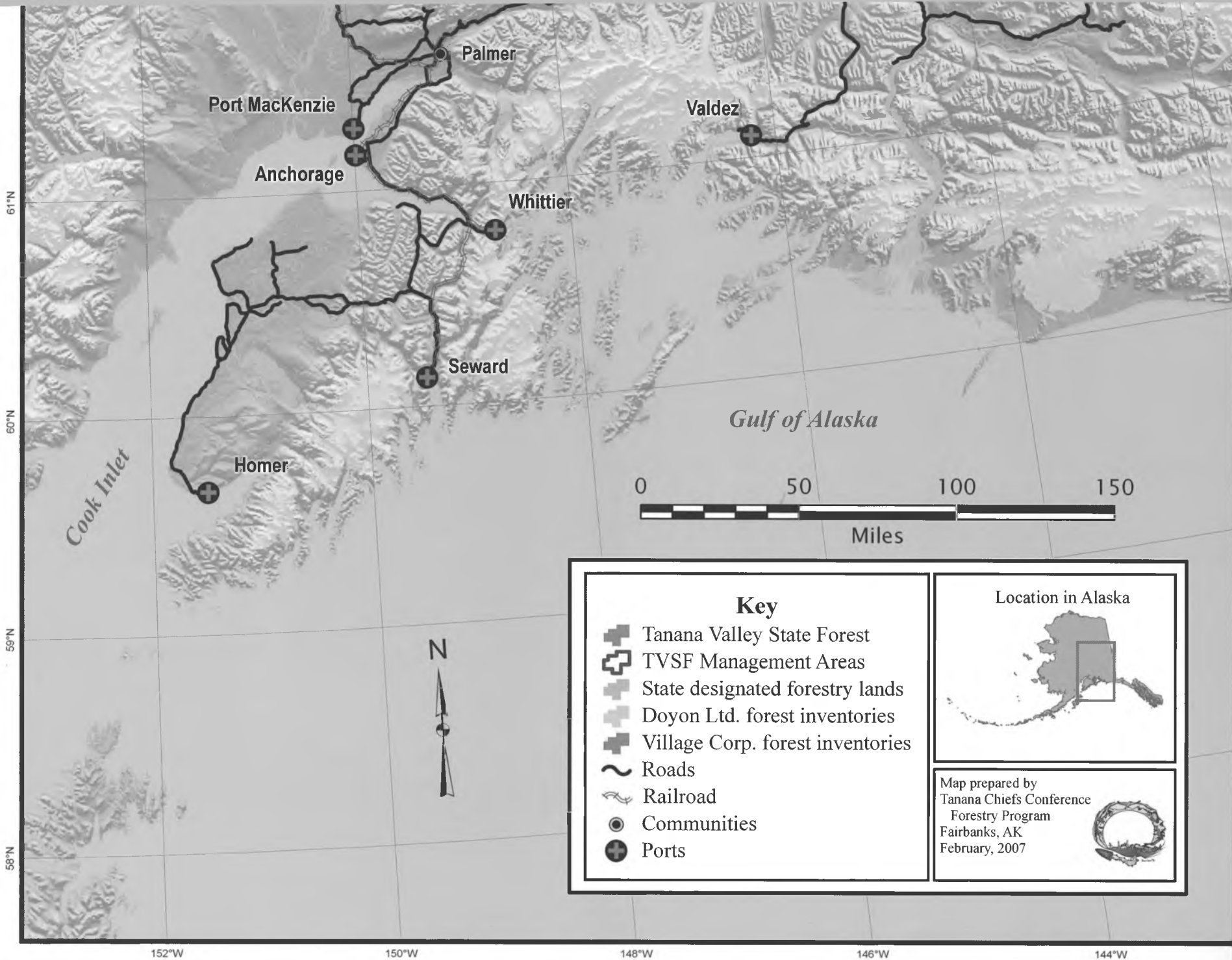
circumstances. Larger sales can be negotiated to foster economic development. The state maintains a regular competitive sale program; most sales over 160 acres are listed in a five-year schedule of timber sales. The schedule provides basic information on the volume, location and sale dates of offerings. If not on the schedule, additional sales may be requested and the schedule can be modified based on comments and requests. The required review process ranges from one month to about eighteen months depending on whether the sale must be listed in the schedule. Current schedules are designed to meet local needs, which account for less than 10 percent of the allowable cut. All state timber harvest is subject to the Alaska Forest Resources and Practices Act (FRPA).

Other public land managers, such as the Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB), the University of Alaska Trust Lands, and the Mental Health Trust Lands, use competitive, sealed bid procedures that are standard for the forest products industry. A regular sale schedule is not currently utilized, but landowners respond to market conditions and offer sales during more favorable economic periods. Compliance with the FRPA is a requirement of these timber



Tanana Valley Forest Resources





61°N
60°N
59°N
58°N

152°W 150°W 148°W 146°W 144°W

Key

-  Tanana Valley State Forest
-  TVSF Management Areas
-  State designated forestry lands
-  Doyon Ltd. forest inventories
-  Village Corp. forest inventories
-  Roads
-  Railroad
-  Communities
-  Ports

Location in Alaska



Map prepared by
Tanana Chiefs Conference
Forestry Program
Fairbanks, AK
February, 2007



**Table 5
Timber Sale Options/Methods**

Sale Type	Sale Method	Maximum Volume	Maximum Term	Minimum Time Sale Review	Special Requirements
Regular Competitive	Sealed Bid	None	None	1.5 years* if > 160 acres	None
Regular Negotiated	Negotiated	500 mbf	1 year	1 month	Max 500 mbf per yr/individual
Distressed Areas	Negotiated	None	25 years	1 month	Local manufacture in areas of high unemployment unused mill capacity and unused allowable cut
Value-Added	Negotiated or Competitive Proposals	10 mmbf per year	10 years	1.5 years* if > 160 acres	Local manufacture of high value-added products
Salvage	Bid or Negotiated	None	None	3 months	None

* Sales previously listed on the Five-Year Schedule of Timber Sales may be available immediately without the need for further notice.

sales, as well. Notification requirements are met through the submission of a Detailed Plan of Operations (DPO).

Private Lands

Private landowners also respond to market conditions and offer sales during more favorable economic periods. Timber sales on private land are reviewed for compliance with the Forest Resources and Practices Act and notification requirements are met through submission of a DPO.

Forest Stewardship

Forest Resources and Practices Act

The Forest Resources and Practices Act is designed to protect fish habitat, water quality and ensure prompt reforestation of forestland while providing for a healthy timber industry. The FRPA ensures that both the timber and commercial fishing industries can continue to provide long-term jobs.

Alaska is divided into three forest practices regions. Region I covers coastal forests from Southeast Alaska through Prince William Sound, the eastern Kenai Peninsula, the Kodiak Archipelago, and parts of the Alaska Peninsula. Region II is the boreal forest south of the Alaska Range. Region III is the boreal forest in Interior Alaska. Standards for riparian management and reforestation vary by region.

The FRPA applies to commercial timber operations on forestland, including harvesting, roading, site preparation, thinning, and slash treatment operations. Operations must comply with the FRPA if they are larger than 10 acres in Region I or larger than 40 acres in Region II. In Region III, it applies to operations larger than 40 acres for forest landowners that own more than 160 acres in total. All commercial harvest operations that encompass or border surface waters or a riparian area also must comply with the Act, regardless of their size. For more information on FRPA, visit: <http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/forestry>.

Sustainable Forestry Initiative®

The State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources is licensed under the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI). The SFI program is based on the premise that responsible environmental behavior and sound business decisions can co-exist to the benefit of landowners, manufacturers, shareholders, customers, the people they serve, the environment, and future generations. The SFI program integrates the perpetual growing and harvesting of trees with the protection of wildlife, plants, soil, water, and air quality. Two goals of the SFI program are first, SFI program participants practice sustainable forestry on all the lands they manage and second, they influence millions of additional acres through the training of loggers and foresters in best management practices. This unique commitment to sustainable forestry recognizes that all forest landowners, not just SFI program participants, play a critical role in ensuring the long-term health and sustainability of our forests. For more information on SFI, visit: <http://www.sfiprogram.org>.

Physical Setting

Approximately 85 percent of the Tanana Valley State Forest is located within 20 miles of the state highway system. Eighteen communities adjacent to the State Forest total approximately 90,000 residents, with the majority located in the Fairbanks North Star Borough.

The climate of the Tanana Basin is one of the coldest and warmest areas of the state. Extreme temperatures range from minus 66 degrees to 96 degrees Fahrenheit. Mean temperature in Fairbanks for July is 62 degrees Fahrenheit while mean temperature in January is minus 13 degrees Fahrenheit. Precipitation averages 10.4 inches, with August being the wettest month (1.86 inches). Snowfall averages 65.1 inches with November and December being the months which receive the most snowfall (13.1 and 12 inches). Generally, frost-free



days occur from the first part of June to the end of August. Sunlight hours reach a maximum of 21 hours and 13 minutes on June 21st, and a minimum of 3 hours and 44 minutes on December 21st.

Harvesting activities can occur year round with winter activities focused in areas that require winter road and ice bridge infrastructure to access. These areas are generally located in river floodplains and in areas of permafrost. Upland sites can be accessed by a more traditional forest road system with main line and spur road development.

Current Industrial Development, Markets and Assets

The Tanana Basin has several regional and local sawmills in operation. Most settlements have a local, private company that produces dimensional lumber and two or three sided house logs and timbers. Often these are part-time operations that saw rough cut lumber which is air dried and sold "green." There are a few regional mills that produce graded dimensional lumber utilizing the new Alaska Spruce grade stamp developed by the Ketchikan Wood Technology Center and administered by the Western Wood Products Association. The largest mill produces approximately 4.5 million board feet of white spruce lumber annually. As of 1998, annual lumber and timber imports to the state were in the 80-90 million board foot range.⁵

Several portable band saw mills produce hardwood lumber, mainly birch, which is utilized in a number of secondary manufacturing processes. These companies are small in scope, yet important to the developing hardwood industry.



Bioenergy has become an area of interest and opportunity for residential and commercial pellet manufacturing for both space heating and electrical generation are possible. Local electric utilities use coal as their primary fuel and there is interest in utilizing wood chips or pellets for co-firing applications. The creation of an industry that could use the low quality and small diameter forest material would greatly enhance development opportunities in the hardwood and softwood manufacturing sector.

Transportation System and Ports

The road network in Interior Alaska connects to the seaports of Anchorage and Whittier. The port of Anchorage is 356 miles from Fairbanks via the Parks Highway. This highway is suitable for trucks utilizing tandem trailers year around. A tunnel at Portage, on the Seward Highway, also provides truck access to Whittier, about 48 miles from Anchorage. Both ports are accessed



by rail from Fairbanks with service provided by the Alaska Railroad.

In the planning stages is an extension of the Alaska Railroad from its present terminus 20 miles southeast of Fairbanks, to Delta Junction, 80 miles farther southeast. Delta Junction presently connects to these ports by highway through Fairbanks or south to the Glenn Highway and west to Anchorage, a total of 340 miles.

The port of Valdez is 366 miles from Fairbanks and is reached via the Richardson Highway. The highway is suitable for tandem trailer trucks year around and the port loading infrastructure accommodates bulk shipments. Another possibility, as an adjunct to value-added production is to move chips by truck 349 miles to Port MacKenzie (on Cook Inlet) where a chip handling facility allows for stock-piling and transfer to Far East and south-bound vessels. Also, logs can be moved up the Tanana River to a transfer point in Nenana, then either by rail or highway to a Fairbanks mill or directly to a plant in Nenana.

The Port of Whittier has roll-on, roll-off rail shipping service that travels weekly to Prince Rupert, B.C. and Tacoma, Washington. The port of Anchorage has regular service via several shipping companies which operate container and/or roll-on, roll-off services to Tacoma. Two of the principal carriers include Totem Ocean Trailer Express (TOTE) and Horizon Lines, among more than a dozen. For a complete list of carriers, visit www.alaskaforestproducts.com. It is important to note that these are virtually all back-hauls, which can have favorable impact on transportation costs to the West coast.

Wrap-Up

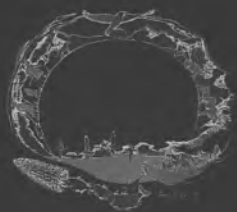
Around the nation, many locations offer forest product development opportunities but few can offer sustainable, high quality timber, developed transportation connections, final consumer markets and a system of industry support. With its substantial timber resources, Interior Alaska is the place to build and expand your forest products industry. Come and take a look at our Interior forest resources. We would be pleased to arrange tours, answer questions, and facilitate appropriate feasibility studies if need be.



Visit the website listings below for additional information. The following are key contacts:



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Website: www.alaskaforestproducts.com
Offering: Prospectus, infrastructure, markets



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Website: <http://www.tananachiefs.org>
Offering: Interactive online GIS maps: <http://gis.tananachiefs.org>



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Alaska Division of Forestry
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Fax: (907) 451-2690
Email: mark_eliot@dnr.state.ak.us
Website: www.dnr.state.ak.us/forestry
Offering: Forest management planning, sustainable yield analysis



Forest Products Specialist
Office of Economic Development
550 W. 7th Ave., Suite 1770
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Fax: (907) 269-8125
Email: jack_phelps@commerce.state.ak.us
Website: http://www.dced.state.ak.us/oed/forest_products/forest_products.htm
Offering: Resource and market information and consulting

¹ Crimp, Peter M., Phillips, Steven J., Worum, Gordon T. 1997 Timber Resources on State Forestry Lands in the Tanana Valley.

² *Ibid*, p. 1.

³ Maisch, John C. 1991 Forest Resources of the Fairbanks Area Tanana Basin.

⁴ Hammond, Timothy O. 1996 Mapping Interior Alaska Forest Types with Satellite Imagery.

⁵ McDowell Group. 1998 The Alaska Market for Value-Added Lumber Products

Office of Project Management and Permitting

Core Services

- Coordinate permitting for large natural resource development projects across state and federal agencies for applicants that request and pay for this service.
- Review federal plans and actions to ensure that the state's rights are protected as per the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), and to ensure successful resource development, wise stewardship of state resources, and continued opportunities for access, and public uses such as recreation, hunting and fishing.

Overview

- OPMP assigns a coordinator to oversee the review and permitting of larger scale projects in the state. Because of the complexity and potential impact of these projects on multiple divisions or agencies, these projects typically benefit from a single primary point of contact.
- The project coordinator is responsible for ensuring that the project moves forward in a coordinated manner with minimum duplication of effort.
- The office deals with a diverse mix of projects including transportation, oil and gas, mining, federal grants, ANILCA implementation and coordination, and federal land use planning.
- For large resource development projects, OPMP enters into a MOU with the project proponent for the reimbursement of state agency time and travel associated with the project.
- OPMP currently manages 17 project MOUs, with a total reimbursement commitment of approximately \$4.4 million.
- OPMP has 12 full time positions, and one intern position. The intern position and one full time position are currently vacant.

LIST OF PROJECTS

MINING

Greens Creek Currently Operating. Coordinating renewal of major state permits.

Pogo. Currently Operating. Coordinating renewal of major state permits

Red Dog. Currently Operating.

Fort Knox. Currently Operating. Coordinating permitting for dam modifications and an updated Reclamation and Closure Plan.

Kensington. Currently Operating.

Rock Creek. In Temporary Closure Status.

Chuitna Coal Project. Full project coordination. Currently in NEPA & permitting; Draft SEIS due out near end of 2011, permitting possibly done in 2012.

Pebble Project. Currently in pre-application phase. Agencies are working with applicant on baseline data review and exploration permitting. Applications anticipated early 2012(?).

Donlin Creek Project. Currently in pre-application phase. Agencies are working with applicant on baseline data review and gas pipeline geotechnical evaluation. Applications expected late 2011.

Livengood Project. Currently in pre-application phase. Agencies are working with applicant on baseline data collection and review.

Jumbo Dome Project. Currently in pre-application phase. Agencies are working with applicant on baseline data collection and review.

Niblack Project. Currently in pre-application phase. On-going exploration.

Nixon Fork. Past Operator, Currently in permit renewal phase.

Canadian mine projects. Agencies are monitoring Canadian mine permitting activity in watersheds that drain into Alaska.

ENERGY

Cook Inlet Gas Storage. Permitting decisions are largely complete, but finalization of some components awaits completion of negotiations between project applicant and former property owner, as well as legal challenges.

Bureau Ocean Management and Regulatory Enforcement (BOEMRE) 5 Year Leasing Plan EIS for Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) oil and gas leasing.

Coordinating State cooperating agency status for the preparation of the 5 yr Leasing Plan EIS and State review and response to other BOEMRE/OCS actions.

Bureau of Land Management (BLM) National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPR-A) Integrated Activity Plan (IAP) /EIS. Coordinating State cooperating agency status for the preparation of the IAP/EIS

ExxonMobil Point Thomson Gas Cycling Project. Coordinating State cooperating agency status for the preparation of the Point Thomson Project EIS and parallel state and federal permitting requirements

Shell OCS Exploration Drilling Plans For Beaufort Sea and Chukchi Sea. State ACMP/ADEC reviews complete. Awaiting federal approvals (BOEMRE permit to drill and EPA PSD Air Permit)

BP Liberty Development and Production Project. Project infrastructure/facilities complete. Awaiting completion of ultra extended reach drilling rig construction and state and federal drilling permit applications.

TRANSPORTATION

Northern Rail Extension Project. Final EIS/ROD issued. Currently processing required state permits for Phase 1

Port MacKenzie Rail Extension Project . Draft EIS issued. Awaiting Final EIS/ROD. Conducting pre-application meeting for required state and federal permits for ARRC preferred route.

King Cove/Izembek Land Exchange & Road EIS. Coordinating State cooperating agency status for the preparation of the Izembek Land Exchange EIS

and parallel state and federal permitting requirements for construction of a single lane gravel road connecting the City of King Cove with Cold Bay.

KABATA. The final Environmental Impact Statement was published in 2008, and the Record of Decision is anticipated in 2010.

OTHER

ANILCA. Lead coordinating agency for state participation in implementation of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), including:

- Advocacy for oil and gas development of the Arctic Refuge Coastal Plan,
- Stemming the tide of federal wilderness initiatives,
- Protecting jurisdiction over state waterways in federal parks, refuges, and forest lands,
- Ensuring opportunities for resource development on inholdings, and
- Ensuring access to federal lands is maintained for subsistence and traditional activities, and commercial recreational activities that provide local services and benefit local economies.

ESA coordination. Providing assistance to ADFG to coordinate state comments on Endangered Species Act (ESA) actions, including listing of new ESA species and designation of critical habitat.

BLM Resource Management Plan (RMP) coordination. Coordinating state input to and reviews of Eastern Interior RMP and EIS, East Alaska/Delta River RMP Amendment and EA, Ring of Fire RMP Amendment for the Haines Block, Kobuk Seward RMP Amendment and EA focusing on the Squirrel River. Issues include:

- Release of d(1) withdrawals,
- Implementation of Secretary Salazar's Order 3310 regarding "Wild Lands,"
- Recreation, public access, and travel management
- Access to state lands and resources,
- Working to ensure fulfillment of BLM multiple use mandate,
- Consideration of ANILCA in plan development and implementation.

Given the direction provided by Secretary Order 3310, BLM may seek to revisit previously adopted RMP's focusing on SE Alaska through the Alaska Peninsula, the Bristol Bay Area, the Kobuk Seward Peninsula and the East Alaska Copper River area to address 3310's wilderness inventory requirements.

EVOS. Providing significant technical assistance to the Department of Law and the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Restoration Office on Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Restoration program issues.

Oil Spill Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration (NRDA) and Contingency Planning. Participating in two NRDA cases; the Selendang and the more recent Adak spill, as well as interagency NRDA planning efforts focusing on the Arctic and statewide coordination.

Federal grant programs. Coordinating implementation of a variety of federal grant programs focused on the protection of habitat, resource values, public access and other public interests to ensure consistency and efficiency across agencies and divisions.

Tongass coordination. Full project coordination, ever increasing inter-agency issues to be resolved.

Health Impact Assessments. Currently drafting statewide guidance document and developing HIAs in concert with DHSS staff for Chuitna, Point Thomson, Donlin Creek, MMS Arctic EIS.

CONTACT:

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907-269-8629
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<http://dnr.alaska.gov/commis/opmp/>