

State of Alaska FY2002 Governor's Operating Budget

Department of Natural Resources
Fire Suppression
BRU/Component

Component: Fire Suppression

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Component Mission

The Division of Forestry's mission is to manage wildland fires in the most efficient and cost-effective manner possible, meeting statutory requirements to provide wildland fire protection to all state, municipal and private lands.

Component Services Provided

This component enables the Division of Forestry to meet its statutory responsibility AS41.15.010 for wildland fires on all state, municipal and private lands in Alaska.

The Division will provide rapid and aggressive initial attack on wildland fires consistent with the Alaska Interagency Fire Management Plan. This will be accomplished through cooperative agreements with federal and local government fire cooperators.

This component funds wildland fire suppression operations and fixed operating costs to provide for critical supplies, services, equipment, and personnel. Helicopters, air tankers and light fixed-wing aircraft will be contracted from private vendors to provide detection, transportation of initial attack firefighters, and application of fire retardant to wildland fires. Village emergency firefighting crews, incidental emergency firefighters, local government and federal cooperator personnel will be hired in emergency situations to supplement the Division's firefighters.

Additional detail on fire suppression average year costs available upon request from DNR Admin Services Manager (Nico Bus 465-2406).

Component Goals and Strategies

The goal of this component is to manage wildland fire in order to protect human life, inhabited improvements, Alaska's natural resources and other critical sites.

Strategies to be utilized are to provide for immediate and effective initial attack to suppress all fires in the populated areas of the state and to protect critical sites in areas of the state as specified in the Alaska Interagency Fire Management Plan. Additional strategies are to coordinate emergency response efforts with local government, other state agencies and federal agency cooperators and to employ residents of Alaska in fighting wildland fires.

Key Component Issues for FY2001 – 2002

Responding to the rising numbers of urban interface fires as Alaska's population continues to move into the forested areas of the state is one of the key issues facing the Division and its cooperators. In 1999 the Division suppressed six serious urban interface fires that directly threatened inhabited structures. During 2000, Forestry responded to 16 fires that involved structures threatened by wildland fire.

The increasing wildland fire protection responsibility is also one of the key issues the Division is facing. Fixed costs continue to rise and the state's wildland fire seasons are longer than in past years.

The Division's Wildland Fire Management Program consists of two components. This component funds fire suppression and the Forest Management and Development Component funds preparedness. The annual cost of wildland fire suppression over the past ten years has consistently exceeded budgeted funding. This has been recognized by both the administration and legislature and additional funding has been received funded through the use of supplemental appropriations. Until FY99 intent language to this effect was included in the budget act. The

issue of making funding available through either supplemental or reappropriation for wildland fire management needs to be resolved.

Major Component Accomplishments for FY2000

- Managed and responded to a total of 324 wildland fire occurrences on 134 million acres. Provided fire weather forecasting a minimum of 3 days per week during fire season.
- Analyzed daily lightning occurrence data and provided rapid response to fire starts in areas with high value natural resources and human improvements.
- Provided 12 aircraft contracted from private vendors and 3 Division operated aircraft including helicopters, air tankers, and fixed wing.
- Provided payment to Alaska vendors who supplied additional aircraft detection, commodities, and supplies during fire suppression actions.
- Purchased smokejumper capabilities from the federal government.
- Provided employment opportunities for 33 EFF village crews and numerous individual Alaskans as firefighters and support personnel.
- Successfully suppressed 97% of 266 fires in critical and full protection at 10 acres or less. These urban interface fires were suppressed by firefighters from the Tok, Fairbanks, Delta, Copper River, McGrath, Palmer/Big Lake, Soldotna, and Haines Area Offices.
- Successfully suppressed 98% of 211 fires in critical protection at 10 acres or less.

Statutory and Regulatory Authority

Alaska Statutes - Title 41

Section 41.15.010 - 41.15.170

Section 41.15.200 - 41.15.240

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Key Performance Measures for FY2002

Measure: Reduce the overall percentage of human-caused wildland fires in the Division's protection area.
(Not yet addressed by Legislature.)

Current Status:

Too soon to tell.

Benchmark:

Reduce the overall percentage of human-caused wildland fires in the Division's protection area.

Background and Strategies:

Humans cause approximately 83 percent of the wildland fires occurring each season on the Division's protection area.

Strategies include maintaining an aggressive wildland fire prevention program and continued support of the defensible space and Firewise concepts in an effort to reduce the overall percentage of human-caused fires.

Status of FY2001 Performance Measures

	<i>Achieved</i>	<i>On track</i>	<i>Too soon to tell</i>	<i>Not likely to achieve</i>	<i>Needs modification</i>
• Percentage of fires in full and critical protection categories that are held to less than 10 acres.		X			

Fire Suppression

Component Financial Summary

All dollars in thousands

	FY2000 Actuals	FY2001 Authorized	FY2002 Governor
Non-Formula Program:			
Component Expenditures:			
71000 Personal Services	5,828.9	3,009.3	3,309.8
72000 Travel	278.5	34.7	56.7
73000 Contractual	10,130.7	4,746.9	4,765.4
74000 Supplies	1,298.8	704.5	711.5
75000 Equipment	296.0	20.0	23.5
76000 Land/Buildings	0.0	0.0	0.0
77000 Grants, Claims	0.0	0.0	0.0
78000 Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0
Expenditure Totals	17,832.9	8,515.4	8,866.9
Funding Sources:			
1002 Federal Receipts	3,815.4	5,321.3	5,321.0
1004 General Fund Receipts	13,993.4	3,182.3	3,545.9
1007 Inter-Agency Receipts	24.1	0.0	0.0
1053 Investment Loss Trust Fund	0.0	7.9	0.0
1108 Statutory Designated Program Receipts	0.0	3.9	0.0
Funding Totals	17,832.9	8,515.4	8,866.9

Estimated Revenue Collections

Description	Master Revenue Account	FY2000 Actuals	FY2001 Authorized	FY2001 Cash Estimate	FY2002 Governor	FY2003 Forecast
Unrestricted Revenues						
None.		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Unrestricted Total		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Restricted Revenues						
Federal Receipts	51010	3,815.4	5,321.3	9,110.0	5,321.0	5,321.3
Interagency Receipts	51015	24.1	0.0	12.6	0.0	0.0
Statutory Designated Program Receipts	51063	0.0	3.9	3.9	0.0	0.0
Investment Loss Trust Fund	51393	0.0	7.9	7.9	0.0	0.0
Restricted Total		3,839.5	5,333.1	9,134.4	5,321.0	5,321.3
Total Estimated Revenues		3,839.5	5,333.1	9,134.4	5,321.0	5,321.3

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Proposed Changes in Levels of Service for FY2002

"Mobile Fire Attack Force" - This increment would provide a quick response, mobile attack force to respond to the increased potential for wildland-urban interface fires statewide. A 20-person initial attack workforce would be utilized together as a crew or individually in the highest-risk areas on engines or helitack. This force could augment initial attack forces, be pre-positioned statewide for immediate response based on fire danger, and provide support to structure fire departments in wildland-urban interface response. This force can be used throughout the season to increase initial attack response in critical areas. The state has experienced an earlier fire season of up to three weeks for the last three years and twice has prevented project fires near urban areas because an experienced crew was coincidentally available locally and utilized immediately. There has been limited ability to respond to the high-risk areas with pre-positioning due to the early season and lack of available firefighters (they are needed where they are for fires).

Summary of Component Budget Changes

From FY2001 Authorized to FY2002 Governor

All dollars in thousands

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
FY2001 Authorized	3,190.2	5,321.3	3.9	8,515.4
Adjustments which will continue current level of service:				
-Convert Special FY2001 Labor Cost Fund Sources to GF	3.9	0.0	-3.9	0.0
-Year 2 Labor Costs - Net Change from FY2001	1.8	-0.3	0.0	1.5
Proposed budget increases:				
-Mobile Initial Attack Force	350.0	0.0	0.0	350.0
FY2002 Governor	3,545.9	5,321.0	0.0	8,866.9

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Personal Services Information

Authorized Positions			Personal Services Costs	
	FY2001 Authorized	FY2002 Governor		
Full-time	8	8	Annual Salaries	1,166,523
Part-time	33	53	COLA	17,016
Nonpermanent	0	0	Premium Pay	0
			Annual Benefits	456,336
			<i>Less 3.27% Vacancy Factor</i>	<i>(53,675)</i>
			Lump Sum Premium Pay	1,723,600
Totals	41	61	Total Personal Services	3,309,800

Position Classification Summary

Job Class Title	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Others	Total
Accounting Tech I	0	0	0	1	1
Aircraft Maint Inspector	0	0	0	1	1
Aircraft Pilot II	0	1	0	2	3
Aircraft Supervisor	0	0	0	1	1
Food Service Journey	0	0	0	1	1
Food Service Lead	0	0	0	1	1
Food Service Sub Journey	0	0	0	2	2
Forest Tech II	0	7	0	7	14
Forest Tech III	0	3	0	4	7
Forest Tech IV	0	1	0	1	2
Forester I	0	1	0	1	2
Forester II	0	1	0	1	2
Forester III	1	0	0	0	1
Forester IV	1	0	0	0	1
Maint Gen Sub - Journey I	0	0	0	4	4
Maint Gen Sub - Journey II	0	0	0	1	1
Personnel Asst I	0	0	1	0	1
Procurement Spec I	0	0	0	1	1
Stock & Parts Svcs Journey I	0	0	0	2	2
Stock & Parts Svcs Journey II	0	1	0	2	3
Stock & Parts Svcs Lead	0	1	0	0	1
Stock & Parts Svcs Sub Journey	0	3	0	6	9
Totals	2	19	1	39	61