

**Change Record Detail with Description (285)**  
**Department of Natural Resources**

**Scenario:** FY2015 Supplemental (12199)  
**Component:** Fire Suppression Activity (AR 37595) (2706)  
**RDU:** Statewide Fire Suppression Program (140)

Scenario/Change Record Title	Trans Type	Totals	Personal Services	Travel	Services	Commodities	Capital Outlay	Grants, Benefits	Miscellaneous	Positions		
										PFT	PPT	NP
<b>FY2015 Supplemental</b>												
<b>FY2015 Projected Costs for Wildland Fire Protection</b>												
(Language)	Suppl	3,000.0	0.0	0.0	3,000.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
1004 Gen Fund		3,000.0										

Language: The amount necessary to pay for fire suppression activities, estimated to be \$3,000,000, is appropriated from the general fund to the Department of Natural Resources, fire suppression activities, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015.

This appropriation of general funds for the projected spring costs for initial attack of wildland fires through June 30, 2015. The initial FY2015 general fund appropriation for the Fire Suppression component was \$6,659.1. (SLA2014, CH 16, Sec 1, Pg. 30, Ln 24) Remaining funding in the component is insufficient to meet the state's statutory obligation to meet current obligations and provide wildland fire protection on state, municipal, and private lands in FY2015.

**2014 Fire Season Summary**

In 2014, the wildland fire season got off to a fast start as earlier-than-normal dry spring weather produced extreme wildland fire conditions in early May. The early snowmelt and warm, dry weather led to an extended period of extremely dry fuels as greenup of vegetation was delayed due to little precipitation. The 1,600 acre Tyonek Fire started May 19th and, later that day, the 200,000 acre Funny River Fire began and eventually forced the evacuation of dozens of homeowners on the Kenai Peninsula. Due to the dry conditions the Funny River Fire grew at extreme speeds up to 20,000 acres daily for a week. The Funny River Fire was the largest fire on the Kenai Peninsula since 1947.

Windy conditions allowed an Alaska Fire Service prescribed fire on military lands near Delta Junction to escape. The wildland fire 100 Mile Fire was managed by the Alaska Type 1 crew. The fire season slowed down and developed into one of the wettest summers on record in Alaska. The wet conditions from mid-June through August then translated to one of the lowest fire seasons on record in Alaska in terms of acreage burned. Most of the fire starts for the season were human caused and in populated areas.

While it turned out to be a slow fire season in Alaska that was not the case in the Lower 48. All totaled, Alaska directed nearly 700 firefighting personnel to help battle fires in California, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Utah and Washington. In addition the Division provided support for British Columbia and the Northwest Territory.

**2015 Spring Fire Season**

This request is being processed as a supplemental to meet the fire suppression needs of firefighting in the upcoming season and obligations for the last half of CY2014. The request for initial attack funding for spring fires is based on the average of actuals costs incurred over the last ten years.

April and May are two of our busiest months, as much of the fire activity occurs in the urban interface areas with person caused starts. The largest acreages often occur in June, a period when prolonged burn periods and extended high pressure systems promote large wildland fire growth.

The division's fire program continues to face the challenges of providing suppression response for longer and more challenging fire seasons, an expanding wildland urban interface, increasing service and supply costs, staff shortages in critical positions due to recruitment difficulty, and increase in State owned acres through federal land conveyances.

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