

# QUICK DATA

Firewood Permits Issued & Cords Sold		
FY 19	619	3,093
FY 20	574	2,296
FY 21	653	2,279
FY 22	564	2,872
FY 23	403	1,848

Timber Sale Revenue (in thousands dollars)	
FY14	354
FY15	1,917
FY16	212.8
FY17	688.5
FY18	477.4
FY19	464.3
FY20	91.7
FY21	265.4
FY22	1,420
FY23	1,182.70

Ten-Year Record of Timber Volume Sold - MBF					
	Coastal Southeast	Coastal Southcentral	Northern Region	State Total	Statewide Sales
FY14	8,512	379	19,621	28,512	58
FY15	6,171	438	14,305	20,914	39
FY16	401	50	7,864	8,315	34
FY17	8,196	378	2,749	11,323	38
FY18	5,269	206	2,477	7,952	22
FY19	13,673	152	2,165	15,990	31
FY20	262	250	1,809	2,321	31
FY21	39,071	150	3,124	42,345	30
FY22	4,870	0	4,728	9,599	23
FY23	11,764	0	3,122	14,886	28

## 2023 Forest Resources & Practices Act Activities on Private and Other Public Lands

New Notifications Detailed Plans of Operation				
	2020	2021	2022	2023
Southern SE	33	13	12	6
Northern SE	5	5	1	0
Mat-Su/SW	0	2	1	3
Kenai-Kodiak	3	3	6	10
<b>Coastal Total</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>19</b>
Fairbanks	1	1	1	1
Delta	0	0	0	0
Tok	0	1	0	0
Copper River	0	0	0	0
<b>Northern Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>20</b>

Harvest Acreage in New Notifications				
	2020	2021	2022	2023
Southern SE	7,843	1,860	1,095	637
Northern SE	1,242	683	13	0
Mat-Su/SW	0	148	131	689
Kenai-Kodiak	1,085	1,479	1,339	3,166
<b>Coastal Total</b>	<b>10,170</b>	<b>4,170</b>	<b>2,578</b>	<b>4,492</b>
Fairbanks	45	38	15	30
Delta	0	0	0	0
Tok	0	0	0	0
Copper River	0	0	0	0
<b>Northern Total</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10,215</b>	<b>4,208</b>	<b>2,593</b>	<b>4,522</b>

Updated as of 2/7/24

# Forest Resources

In Southeast Alaska, harvesting continued on the 15 million board foot (MMBF) Bayview Timber Sale and on two Good Neighbor Authority sales: the 16 MMBF mixed age joint federal and state Vallenar Sale and the 29 MMBF federal Kosciusko Sale. Area staff continued planning and design of new timber sales near communities of Whale Pass, Elcapitan, Naukati, Thorne Bay, Edna Bay, and Petersburg.

The Northern Region supports local value-added wood processors and commercial fuelwood processors by offering timber sales in Fairbanks, Delta, Tok, and Copper River. The saw log demand remains stable while the firewood and biomass industry in Interior Alaska has increased slightly due to fluctuations in oil prices. The forest products industry contributes over \$100 million to the statewide economy through direct employment and support services.

Firewood demand remains high in Southcentral Alaska, and the Mat-Su and Kenai offices maintain forest roads and cutting areas to meet the firewood needs of Alaskans.



State field crews have successfully conducted the Interior Alaska Forest Inventory and Analysis program for eight years. In 2023, the field hubs were Iliamna, Red Devil, and Osprey Lodge. A total of 221 plots have been installed and measured.

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The Mission of the Division of Forestry & Fire Protection is to protect the lives and property of Alaskans from wildfire and manage Alaska's Forests to provide a sustainable supply of forest resources.



# ALASKA DIVISION OF FORESTRY & FIRE PROTECTION



# 2023 SUMMARY

# WILDLAND FIRE & HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION

The 2023 Alaska fire season was a tale of two extremes with a record-breaking lack of fire activity in the Spring, followed by a short but extreme burst of fire activity in late July. Ultimately the season ended with one of the lowest statewide acreages burned on record. Unusually wet and cool weather in May, June and early July delayed fire season in Alaska's interior and prevented it from arriving in other parts of the state.

With the slow start to the Alaska season, Canada was experiencing record-breaking wildfires across the western provinces due to their historically dry conditions. Canadian response agencies spent most of the summer at Preparedness Level 5, which is the highest fire danger level on a scale of 1-5. DOF took advantage of Alaska's quiet early season and assisted our Canadian partners with firefighting resources made available through the Northwest Compact. In contrast, during the fire season of 2022, Canadian resources were sent to support Alaska during one of our busiest seasons on record. The exchange of international firefighting resources highlights the importance of national and international resource sharing agreements, such as the Northwest Compact. No single agency or region has enough resources to manage large, rapidly changing, complex fires without help.

Despite the slow start to the 2023 fire season, abnormally hot and dry conditions in mid- July combined with over 40,000 lightning strikes in the Interior ignited 115 new fires over a five-day period. Of the total acreage burned, 72% (213,014 acres) was in the state's northern protection areas. These fires threatened life, property, and infrastructure essential to Alaska's economy. In the space of four weeks during July and August, the DOF was required to simultaneously protect the Trans-Alaska Pipeline, Clear Space Force Base, Pogo Mine and four subdivisions within the Fairbanks North Star and Denali Boroughs, as well as hundreds of remote homesites and structures. Alaska filled resource orders for over 87 fixed wing firefighting and logistical support aircraft, dropped 170 loads of retardant from air tankers, dropped 1,500 scoops of water from water scooping aircraft, and filled 43 helicopter orders. A total of 1,867 orders were filled with Alaskan resources and 16 hand crews were needed from the Lower 48.

As the Alaskan season ended in late August, the Lower 48 fire activity escalated. With little reprieve, Alaskan firefighters and equipment were sent south to support the Pacific Northwest and Northern California. The Alaska Incident Management Type 1 Team was deployed to Oregon to manage the Smith River Complex and Alaskan fire crews worked on fires in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana and California. In a second flurry of activity in the Southeastern States in October and November, Alaskan resources were again deployed with many of the DOF dispatchers and firefighters assisting until after thanksgiving. Mutual aid agreements allow states and the federal government to request, share and compensate each other for firefighting resources.

2023 Acres Burned by Landowner		
Landowner	Fires	Acres
State	129	213,014
DOD	15	62,206
BLM	34	8,951
USFWS	19	6,799
ANCSA	29	2,708
NPS	6	1,230
Private	90	818
Borough	11	36
City	6	3
BIA	1	2
USFS	3	<1

2023 Fire Activity by Agency		
Agency	Fires	Acres
BLM-AFS	114	152,243
State-DOF	220	143,514
USFS	9	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>343</b>	<b>295,767</b>

Wildfire table data from 1/1/2023 - 9/15/2023  
<https://fire.ak.blm.gov/predsvcs/intel.php>

2023 Wildfires by Cause and Protection Area									
Cause	All Fires		State DOF		AFS		USFS		
	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	
Human	168	741	149	638	10	91	9	10	
Lightning	175	295,026	71	142,876	104	152,153	0	0	
<b>Total</b>	<b>343</b>	<b>295,767</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>143,514</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>152,244</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	



# COMMUNITY & LANDOWNER ASSISTANCE

The Forest Stewardship, Forest Health, and Community Forestry programs provide technical and financial assistance to diverse landowners and managers. The USDA Forest Service funds these programs, contributing over \$1 million annually to the state economy. They assist Alaska Native Corporations, other private landowners, businesses, and local governments, which contribute matching funds.

## Forest Stewardship Program

- Two Alaska Native corporations with sub-grants for developing Forest Stewardship Plans were awarded extensions for the continued development of plans that will cover more than 49,000 acres when completed.
- An additional two Alaska Native corporations began the planning process for developing stewardship plans covering more than 480,000 acres.
- Eighteen Forest Stewardship Plans covering more than 670 acres were prepared for individual forest landowners.
- Twelve homeowners completed wildfire fuel reduction projects using federally funded cost-share grants, with more than 30 total defensible space assessments made in 2023.

## Forest Health Program

- DOF and the USDA Forest Service mapped 900,000 acres of forest damage on the 16.3 million acres surveyed. The top three damage agents were western blackheaded budworm, hemlock mortality caused by sawfly and budworm, and spruce beetle.

## Community Forestry Program

- The USFS increased baseline funding for Community Forestry from \$200,000 to \$302,000, which will further stabilize the program.
- The Arbor Day Foundation, a corporate donor, and the Municipality of Anchorage secured funds to give away trees at the Alaska Run for Women.
- Provided over 50 white spruce seedlings to the One Health Festival in Palmer
- Provided public education & outreach through the Tree Risk Assessment Qualification Workshop, Alaska Arborist Workshop, Anchorage Tree Forum, and Canopy Assessments - Davey Resource Group
- Contracted with Confluence Research and Consulting to develop a statewide survey with the goal to assess priorities among Alaskan communities re: forestry programs and projects for future funding