

State of Alaska FY2009 Governor's Operating Budget

Department of Natural Resources Non-Emergency Hazard Mitigation Projects Component Budget Summary

Component: Non-Emergency Hazard Mitigation Projects

Contribution to Department's Mission

Forestry's contribution to the Department'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. An important function of this component is to utilize temporary project employees for fire management and hazard fuels reduction work, fire prevention, habitat restoration or improvement and other related activities which are funded by local government cooperators.

The goal of this component is to utilize qualified individuals on non-emergency prescribed fire and hazard fuels reduction projects to meet the resource management objectives of various state, municipal and federal land management agencies in Alaska.

The strategy is to use cooperator funding for mutually beneficial projects that reduce wildfire risk. This keeps trained individuals working together as crews so they will gain experience and also be ready to fight wildland fires.

Core Services

This component enables the Division to reduce wildfire risk with local government funds. Temporary project employees are used on pre-planned, non-emergency prescribed fire, hazard fuel reduction and other non-fire suppression projects.

Planned projects have identified approximately 250 crew workdays. Prescribed fire projects and fuels mitigation work require the use of crews to conduct burns in a safe and effective manner. Other government agencies fund the costs associated with crew use. These projects have the potential to reduce the wildland fire threat to villages and communities in Alaska through the reduction of hazardous fuels, and to improve wildlife habitat. These projects further provide experience and training to individuals and crews that will increase their effectiveness for use when needed in fighting wildland fires.

FY2009 Resources Allocated to Achieve Results

FY2009 Component Budget: \$457,700

Personnel:

Full time	0
Part time	5
Total	5

Key Component Challenges

Fuels mitigation projects provide the opportunity for temporary project employees to gain experience and training as a crew with continuous employment during the course of a project. The challenge is that their commitment is to fuels mitigation, but they are often working in areas strategically located to respond to fires in the urban-interface, providing the closest forces for immediate, effective initial attack. This circumstance provides an urban-interface skill set that is not normally available to rural Emergency Fire Fighter (EFF) Type 2 village firefighting crews. Hiring and utilizing this workforce for both fuels mitigation and wildland fire response presents challenges that are being addressed, but highlights the need to ensure that EFF Type 2 crews gain strategic skills needed to maintain national qualifications required for lower-48 mobilizations in the future.

Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2009

No proposed changes.

Major Component Accomplishments in 2007

During FY07, progress on three major projects was accomplished utilizing nonpermanent field crews:

The Pioneer Peak nonpermanent crew worked on hazard fuels mitigation projects in the Municipality of Anchorage. The work consisted of improving natural and manmade fire breaks, reducing fuel loading, and removal of Spruce Beetle killed trees. The work involved reduced the potential for serious wildland fires and provided defensible space around homes and subdivision on the Anchorage and Eagle River Hillsides in Bear Valley and in Forsythe Park. The Pioneer Peak crew spent a total of 28, four day work weeks on hazard fuel mitigation work. A total of 53 state, private and municipal parcels of various sizes were treated meeting firewise prescriptions. Federal funds were received through the Municipality of Anchorage as part of the National Fire Plan.

The MatSu nonpermanent crew changed their name to the Gannett Glacier Crew and spent 46 crew days on hazard fuel mitigation projects in Meadow Lakes, Big Lake and Talkeetna. An estimated 1,200 tons of material were slashed and burned, treating 33+ acres of wildland. The Gannett Glacier crew worked primarily on borough lands adjacent to public schools in addition to other high value public properties. Wildland mitigation funds were appropriated by the MatSu Borough as part of the National Fire Plan funds.

The Kenai Type 2 non-permanent fire crew worked for approximately six weeks to mitigate hazardous fuel adjacent to public facilities to reduce the potential for serious wildland fires. The crew worked primarily on borough owned lands around public school facilities, within city parks of both Kenai and Soldotna, and in State campgrounds: Kasilof River, Crooked Creek, and Clam Gulch. The Kenai Peninsula Borough federal Spruce Beetle Task Force funding was used to accomplish the hazard fuels reduction projects.

Statutory and Regulatory Authority

Alaska Statute 41.15.030

Contact Information

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**Non-Emergency Hazard Mitigation Projects
Component Financial Summary**

All dollars shown in thousands

	FY2007 Actuals	FY2008 Management Plan	FY2009 Governor
Non-Formula Program:			
Component Expenditures:			
71000 Personal Services	311.5	250.0	457.7
72000 Travel	0.0	0.0	0.0
73000 Services	0.0	0.0	0.0
74000 Commodities	0.0	0.0	0.0
75000 Capital Outlay	0.0	0.0	0.0
77000 Grants, Benefits	0.0	0.0	0.0
78000 Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0
Expenditure Totals	311.5	250.0	457.7
Funding Sources:			
1061 Capital Improvement Project Receipts	311.5	250.0	457.7
Funding Totals	311.5	250.0	457.7

Estimated Revenue Collections

Description	Master Revenue Account	FY2007 Actuals	FY2008 Management Plan	FY2009 Governor
Unrestricted Revenues				
None.		0.0	0.0	0.0
Unrestricted Total		0.0	0.0	0.0
Restricted Revenues				
Capital Improvement Project Receipts	51200	311.5	250.0	457.7
Restricted Total		311.5	250.0	457.7
Total Estimated Revenues		311.5	250.0	457.7

**Summary of Component Budget Changes
From FY2008 Management Plan to FY2009 Governor**

All dollars shown in thousands

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
FY2008 Management Plan	0.0	0.0	250.0	250.0
Adjustments which will continue current level of service:				
-FY 09 Bargaining Unit Contract Terms: General Government Unit	0.0	0.0	7.7	7.7
Proposed budget increases:				
-United States Forest Service (USFS) Crew Funding	0.0	0.0	200.0	200.0
FY2009 Governor	0.0	0.0	457.7	457.7

**Non-Emergency Hazard Mitigation Projects
Personal Services Information**

Authorized Positions		Personal Services Costs		
<u>FY2008</u>				
	<u>Management</u>	<u>FY2009</u>		
	<u>Plan</u>	<u>Governor</u>		
Full-time	0	0	Annual Salaries	70,288
Part-time	5	5	COLA	6,822
Nonpermanent	0	0	Premium Pay	0
			Annual Benefits	49,096
			<i>Less 0.00% Vacancy Factor</i>	(0)
			Lump Sum Premium Pay	331,494
Totals	5	5	Total Personal Services	457,700

Position Classification Summary

Job Class Title	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Others	Total
Wildland Fire/Resourc Tech III	0	0	0	4	4
Wildland Fire/Resource Tech IV	0	0	0	1	1
Totals	0	0	0	5	5