

## 2019 Annual Report to the Board of Forestry



Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Habitat Section  
March 2020

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## 2019 OVERVIEW

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) Habitat Section submits our 2019 annual report to the Board of Forestry. This report summarizes our January 1 – December 31, 2019 forestry related activities and informs the Board of Forestry of Alaska Forest Resources and Practices Act (FRPA) effectiveness protecting the resources and habitats for which ADF&G has responsibility.

Alaska Statutes require ADF&G to manage, protect, maintain, improve, and extend the fish, game, and aquatic plant resources of the state in the interest of the economy and general well-being of the State (AS 16.05.020), to ensure the proper protection of anadromous fish habitat (AS 16.05.871), and to provide fish passage (AS 16.05.841).

On public lands, FRPA<sup>a</sup> requires the maintenance of important fish and wildlife habitats. The state forester recognizes the expertise of ADF&G regarding fish and wildlife habitat on all lands with fish habitat as the primary value in riparian areas.<sup>b</sup> ADF&G helps identify and protect important wildlife habitats on private lands, and provides technical expertise for voluntary management techniques that minimize adverse effects on wildlife habitat.<sup>c</sup>

### PRIVATE AND MUNICIPAL LAND

Table 1 contains FRPA activity on private, municipal, and trust land.

#### Southeast Region

Craig staff reviewed and commented on 26 detailed plans of operation (DPOs) for commercial timber harvest, reviewed eight changes in operations, processed 13 renewals, and conducted five FRPA inspections, and issued two fish habitat permits for bridge installations on Mental Health Trust lands near Naukati.

Douglas staff commented on one DPO for timber harvest on Yak-Tat Kwaan Land and 14 DPOs for timber operations in Icy Bay; issued two fish habitat permits for bridges and stream crossings in Icy Bay and surveyed 155 drainages on private and Mental Health Trust timber lands in Southern Southeast and five drainages in the Yakutat and Icy Bay area.

#### Southcentral Region

Anchorage staff reviewed and commented on one DPO for commercial timber harvest, conducted one FRPA inspections, and issued one fish habitat permit.

Soldotna staff reviewed and commented four DPOs.

Palmer reported no activity.

#### Interior Region

One DPO was reviewed in the interior region.

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<sup>a</sup> AS 41.17.060 (c)(7)

<sup>b</sup> AS 41.17.098 (d)

<sup>c</sup> AS 41.17.910 (b) and (c).

## **STATE LAND**

Table 2 contains FRPA activities on State land.

### **Southeast Region**

Craig staff reviewed and commented on the Bay View Timber Sale Preliminary Best Interest Finding and Decision, and conducted three FRPA site visits.

Douglas staff surveyed 55 drainages on State land in Southern Southeast where future harvest may occur.

### **Southcentral Region**

Palmer, Soldotna and Anchorage staff reported no activity.

### **Interior Region**

Fairbanks staff reviewed and commented on one Best Interest Finding, two FLUPs, one FYSTS, seven personal use firewood permits, and issued three fish habitat permits for winter equipment crossings.

## **FEDERAL LAND**

Table 3 contains activities on federal land.

### **Southeast Region**

Craig staff reviewed 16 projects under the general concurrence and issued 27 individual concurrences for culvert and bridge installations on Prince of Wales Island; conducted three inspections of restoration projects in the Staney Creek watershed; and provided comments on the proposed Prince of Wales Landscape Level Analysis.

Douglas staff issued a general concurrence for routine maintenance of forest roads and provided comments on the proposed Central Tongass Project.

### **Southcentral Region**

No activity reported.

### **Interior Region**

No activity reported.

## **FOREST PRACTICES IMPLEMENTATION**

### **COMPLIANCE AND EFFECTIVENESS MONITORING**

Habitat staff participated with the Division of Forestry monitoring FRPA compliance and effectiveness.

## **SPECIAL PROJECTS**

### **ANADROMOUS WATERS CATALOG**

Douglas staff completed field work on a three-year grant from the Alaska Sustainable Salmon Fund to document anadromous water bodies on private and state timber lands in Southern Southeast Alaska, work that resulted in 777 stream surveys, 211 nominations to the anadromous waters catalog (AWC, 31.85 mi. of stream) and 45.49 mi. of streams identified for riparian retention zones. Douglas staff began work on a similar three-year grant to continue stream surveys in Southern Southeast.

### **TONGASS COMPLIANCE AND EFFECTIVENESS MONITORING**

In a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Habitat Section and USFS Alaska Region, USFS Agreement No. 194-MU-11100100-108, ADF&G agrees to participate annually in BMP monitoring field visits.

### **TONGASS FISH PASSAGE**

ADF&G continues to work with the USFS to evaluate fish passage across the forest and prioritize fish passage restoration projects.

## **BUDGET AND PERSONNEL**

### **BUDGET**

ADF&G funding for FRPA activities conducted during calendar year 2019 came from state general funds. The Alaska Sustainable Salmon Fund provided partial funding to identify and nominate freshwater anadromous fish habitat to the AWC in areas where we anticipate timber harvest.

### **PERSONNEL**

#### **New Hires**

Kelsey Dean, Habitat Biologist I, Douglas  
Ben Landes, Seasonal Fish and Wildlife Technician, Douglas  
Killian DeTemple, Seasonal Fish and Wildlife Technician, Douglas  
Madison Bargas, Seasonal Fish and Wildlife Technician, Douglas  
Nessa Urban, Seasonal Fish and Wildlife Technician, Douglas  
Marc Heifetz, Seasonal Fish and Wildlife Technician, Douglas

#### **Resignations**

None

## **STATEMENT OF FRPA EFFECTIVENESS**

ADF&G considers FRPA and its regulations effective for maintaining fish habitat within the classified surface water types during forestry related activities. The Habitat Section works cooperatively with the Division of Forestry, the Department of Environmental Conservation, landowners and operators to implement FRPA to protect important fish habitat, water quality, and important wildlife habitat from the effects of timber harvest activities.

### **CALENDAR YEAR 2020**

#### **WORKLOAD PRIORITIES**

FRPA participation remains a Habitat Section workload priority in addition to anadromous waters cataloging, fish habitat and special area permitting, special area planning, large projects of importance to the State, and research to aid in permitting decisions. Habitat Section staff continues to work with the Divisions of Sport Fish, Commercial Fisheries, and Wildlife Conservation, and the Division of Forestry, to identify fish bearing waters and important wildlife habitat on timberlands, participate in forestry reviews, and conduct forestry related fieldwork. Douglas staff area developing a GIS tool and evaluating its effectiveness for identifying riparian stand susceptibility to windthrow, sharing their findings with the Board of Forestry and industry partners.

#### **OUTREACH AND EDUCATION**

If requested, the Habitat Section will participate in Division of Forestry-sponsored training for agency staff and operators to describe fish habitat permitting under the Anadromous Fish and Fishway Acts and strategies to avoid, minimize and mitigate impacts to important fish and wildlife resources and habitats.

Fairbanks staff continues to assist Division of Wildlife Conservation staff with updating important habitat components, concerns, and harvest techniques for loggers and personal use firewood harvesters for consistency with our comments to DOF and provide information to the public for practices of “good stewardship” when harvesting forest resources.

Table 1.–FRPA activities on private, municipal, and trust land.

Area	DPO	Renewals	Change in Operations	Variation Requests	Variation Inspections	Other FRPA Inspections	FHPs Issued	AWC Updates
<b>Sothern Southeast</b>	Keete Inlet (5) – STC	Keete Inlet (1) – STC	Keete Inlet (3) – STC				West Fork Yatuk Creek – Viking (2)	
	Polk Inlet (2) – STC	McKenzie Inlet (2) – STC	Kosciusko (1) -- STC					
	Tuxekan (3) – STC	Kosciusko (1) – Alcan	Edna Bay (2) -- Alcan					
	McKenzie Inlet (5) – STC	Tuxekan Island (1) – STC	Tuxekan (2) – STC					
	Yatuk Creek (3) -- Viking	Polk Inlet (3) -- SCT						
	Mountain Point (1) -- Heaton							
	Edna Bay (1) -- STC							
	Long Island (1) -- Klukwan							
<b>Northern Southeast</b>	Icy Bay (9) – STC Yak-Tat Kwaan (1)						Icy Bay – TLO & STC (16)	55
<b>Soldotna</b>	Eastway Parcel – KPB							
	Whale of a Tail Forest Block – KPB							
	LMD Project 19-13 – KPB							
	Salamatof#1 -- SNA							
<b>Anchorage</b>	Afognak Native Corp – ANC Land (1)					Koniag – Koniag Inc. (5)  Koncor Natives of Kodiak and Ozinkie Native Corp and Koniag lands (3)		
<b>Fairbanks</b>	Gana-A’Yoo, Limited	SEGA Continued Winter Harvest						

Table 2.–FRPA activities on state land.

Area	BIFS	SFMP	FYSTS	FLUP	Personal Use Firewood	House Log Sales	FRPA Inspections	FHPs Issued	AWC Updates
<b>Southern Southeast</b>	Bay View						Bay View TS (3)		
<b>Northern Southeast</b>									41
<b>Soldotna</b>									
<b>Palmer</b>									
<b>Anchorage</b>									
<b>Fairbanks</b>	Tok Area		Tok Area	Tok & Delta Area					



Table 3.–Activities on federal land.

Area	NEPA	Field Visits	Concurrences
<b>Southern Southeast</b>	Prince of Wales LLA -- TRD	Restoration Inspection (3) – TRD	Bridges (8) – TRD Culverts (12) – TRD Fords (6) -- TRD General Concurrences for Culverts (16) – TRD
<b>Northern Southeast</b>	Central Tongass Project		General Concurrence for Restoration (1)

Email Cc:

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Gretchen Pikul, ADEC, Juneau  
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Audra Brase, ADF&G Habitat, Fairbanks  
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