

Alaska Department of Fish & Game
“Forest Practices Best Management Practices Implementation”

FY02 Grant Award: \$288,200

Project Match: \$192,200



Description and Purpose: The Forest Resources and Practices Act (FRPA) identifies roles and responsibilities for the three state resource agencies - the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and the Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) responsible for forestry management in the state. ADF&G has a basic level of staff dedicated to forest practices implementation within the areas of statutory authority, but lacks the resources required to conduct other forestry water quality protection projects. Such projects include but are not limited to fish habitat

identification, Best Management Practices (BMP) monitoring and evaluation, and implementation of new BMPs in, and proposed for, the FRPA. ACWA funds allowed ADF&G/DNR to work on a number of such projects related to water quality and fish habitat. Most of these projects were field-based.

ADF&G reviewed and commented on all forestry-related documents. These included State five-year sale schedules and forest land use plans, timber sale plans by other public entities such as the University of Alaska and municipalities, private timber sale Detailed Plans of Operation (including the Mental Health Trust), and federal NEPA documents and Alaska Coastal Management Program (ACMP) consistency determinations. ADF&G/DNR conducted pre- and post-activity field inspections where appropriate. Road alignments, the location, construction, and replacement of drainage structures, width and integrity of riparian buffers, and erosion control BMPs were reviewed and inspected. New freshwater anadromous fish habitat that is identified in the conduct of project tasks was summarized and nominated for inclusion in the *Catalog of Waters Important for Spawning, Rearing or Migration of Anadromous Fish*, and high value resident fish habitat will be recorded in Region III. ADF&G/DNR staff assisted DEC in developing and implementing the State's FRPA monitoring program for Southeast Alaska.

Work in Region I focused on the following areas: Icy Bay, Chichagof, Petersburg, Wrangell, Ketchikan, and Prince of Wales Island. Work in Region II focused on active operations in Tyonek, the Kenai Peninsula, Crescent River, Matanuska-Susitna Valley, and Afognak Island. The Region III focus was the Tanana River basin. Headquarters staff coordinated the division's overall forest practices activities and managed this RSA. Regional staff listed on pages 3-4 coordinated work performed at the regional level.

Evaluation of Environmental Benefits: The quality of work conducted under this project was evaluated by the Regional Supervisors on a routine basis, and by the Director and Commissioner when issues were brought to their attention. In addition, the tri-annual meetings of the Board of Forestry provided a formal opportunity for public evaluation of agency work related to FRPA implementation. Draft comments on timber sales were reviewed by the Regional Offices prior to being finalized. Regional Supervisors were also actively involved in the full range of technical and policy issues addressed by this project. Staff monitored the amount of time spent in the field and tracked recommendations and technical assistance provided for each operation. The effectiveness of the project were evaluated based on: 1)

achievement of the goals contained in each project task, 2) success in implementing the Best Management Practices and, when required, mitigation measures prescribed to protect water quality and fish & wildlife habitat, and 3) completion of the recommendations for Region III riparian standards.

Deliverables for the Project Include:

- Agency comments for proposed private, University of Alaska, Mental Health Trust, state, and federal timber sales
- Field inspection reports
- Comments on state and federal forest practices BMP monitoring plans and draft reports
- State monitoring reports, prepared by DNR, with ADF&G input
- Federal monitoring reports prepared by the U.S. Forest Service with ADF&G input
- Nominations for the *Catalog of Waters Important for Spawning, Rearing or Migration of Anadromous Fish*
- ADF&G report to the Board of Forestry
- Summary of Title 16 fish habitat permit activities and enforcement actions
- ADF&G summaries of important FRPA-related meetings, as requested.

DEC Project Manager:

Chris Foley, Environmental Specialist
Alaska Dept. of Environmental Conservation
Division of Air and Water Quality
410 Willoughby Ave., Suite 105
Juneau, AK 99801-1795
Phone: 465-5257 fax: 465-5274
Chris_Foley@envircon.state.ak.us

ADF&G Project Manager:

Ellen Fritts
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Habitat & Restoration Division
P.O. Box 25526
Juneau, AK 99802-5526
Phone 465-4105 fax: 465-4759
Ellen_Fritts@fishgame.state.ak.us

ADF&G Region 1 Project Manager:

Ben Kirkpatrick
ADF&G Habitat & Restoration Division
P.O. Box 240020
Douglas, AK 99824-0020
Phone 465-4288 fax: 465-4272
Ben_Kirkpatrick@fishgame.state.ak.us

ADF&G Region 2 Project Manager:

Don McKay
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Habitat & Restoration Division
333 Raspberry Rd.
Anchorage, AK 99518-1599
Phone 267-2279 fax: 267-2464
Donald_McKay@fishgame.state.ak.us

ADF&G Region 3 Project Manager:

Mac McLean
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Habitat & Restoration Division
1300 College Road
Fairbanks, AK 99701-1599
Phone 459-7281 fax: 456-3091
Robert_McLean@fishgame.state.ak.us