

Silviculture Treatments and Precommercial Thinning to Boost the Timber Industry

FY2025 Request: \$3,500,000
Reference No: AMD 65244

AP/AL: Appropriation

Category: Natural Resources

Location: Statewide

Impact House District: Statewide (HD 1 - 40)

Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2024 - 06/30/2029

Project Type: Life / Health / Safety

Recipient: NA

House District: Statewide (HD 1 - 40)

Contact: Theresa Cross

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Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

The Division of Forestry & Fire Protection is dedicated to reforestation and precommercial thinning to make Alaska a leader in forest management. Of the \$3.5 million project, \$2 million will fund the purchase and planting of commercial conifer seedlings in areas where existing timber has been removed. The remaining \$1.5 million is allocated to precommercial thinning in the Southeast State Forest. Thinning overly dense young forests at this point in their life cycle will ensure a rapid growth response and result in high-value future timber stands.

Funding:	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029	FY2030	Total
1004 Gen Fund	\$1,500,000						\$1,500,000
1155 Timber Rcp	\$2,000,000						\$2,000,000
Total:	\$3,500,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,500,000

<input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - new	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - underway	<input type="checkbox"/> Ongoing
0% = Minimum State Match % Required		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendment	<input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Bill	

Operating & Maintenance Costs:

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Project Development:	0	0
Ongoing Operating:	0	0
One-Time Startup:	0	0
Totals:	0	0

Prior Funding History / Additional Information:

Project Description/Justification:

In areas of the state where existing timber has been removed by timber harvest, wildfire, insects and disease, planting trees today will create commercially valuable future timber stands, thereby substantially improving the timber industry and the overall forestry economic sector.

Thinning overly dense young forests at this point in their life cycle will ensure a rapid growth response by the remaining crop trees and result in high value future timber stands. If precommercial thinning is not done, the resulting timber stands will be less valuable because trees growing too close together grow more slowly and are more stressed due to intense competition for limited sunlight and soil nutrients.

These investments in commercial timber and healthy forests will help meet the Governor's focus to grow the forestry economic sector in the state and make Alaska a leader in forest management.

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Boost the Timber Industry**

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Aggressive tree planting and treatments of young forests will ensure future high value commercial timber and healthy forests in Alaska. This project will create jobs and possible carbon offset revenues today.

Line-Item Breakdown:

Line Item	Amount
1000 – Personal Services	\$30,000
2000 – Travel	
3000 – Services	\$2,552,500
4000 – Commodities	\$992,500
5000 – Capital Outlay	
7000 – Grants	
Total Request	3,575,000