



GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT DNR

The Department of Natural Resources manages all of Alaska's surface and subsurface resources, with the exception of fish and game. This includes state lands (including tidelands), waters, forests, oil, gas, geothermal energy, minerals, sand, gravel, recreational areas, archaeological and historic sites. DNR also encourages agricultural development and soil and water conservation.

DNR has regional offices in Juneau, Anchorage and Fairbanks with district and area offices in other locations, providing most Alaskans direct access to their resource managers.

DIVISIONS WITHIN DNR

THE COMMISSIONERS OFFICE

Sets department goals and policies and provides support services to DNR's divisions and 25 boards and commissions. It serves the public and private sectors through its public information services. The Pipeline Coordinator's Office, the Trust Land Office, the Office of Project Management and Permitting and, the Office of Habitat Management and Permitting, as well as the Citizen's Advisory Commission on Federal Areas, the Alaska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission and the Soil and Water Conservation Board are also within the Commissioner's Office. The Commissioner maintains offices in Juneau, Anchorage and Fairbanks.

Related studies: political sciences, public and business administration, law, fisheries, biology, natural resource management, economics, geography.

DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE

Works with local producers to promote and support Alaska's agriculture industry through financing for farmers and processors, conservation education and inspection, and farm product certification. The "Alaska Grown" program promotes Alaska's farm products, and the Plant Materials Center develops and tests plants for Alaska's climate for use in agriculture production, erosion control, land reclamation and habitat improvement. It also operates the state nursery.

Related studies: agriculture, agronomy, horticulture and associated fields.

DIVISION OF FORESTRY

Manages State Forests for multiple use and sustained yield, protects forest values, and

develops and sells forest products. Staff gives technical assistance to private forest landowners; administers the Forest Practices Act. Foresters cooperate with other agencies to protect 134 million acres of private and state forest land from fire and disease. Village crews are trained in fire protection, enabling them to work on fires in Alaska and around the nation.

Related studies: forestry, natural resources, forest management, silviculture, GIS, computer sciences, fire dispatching, suppression and presuppression techniques, logistics, warehousing, tree planting, disease control.

DIVISION OF GEOLOGICAL AND GEOPHYSICAL SURVEYS

Collects, analyzes, and interprets data on natural resources and natural conditions; maps and inventories resources on state land for use by government, private industry, scientists, educators and the public. Their geologic hazards program provides engineering and safety information on slope-stability, volcano and earthquake hazards, permafrost and other natural conditions. The staff annually publishes about 75 technical reports and geologic maps and distributes more than 11,000 copies of publications.

Related studies: geology, geophysics, earth science, mining, engineering, natural resources, GIS.

DIVISION OF MINING, LAND & WATER MANAGEMENT

MINING

Oversees state mineral exploration, development and leasing programs (excluding oil, gas, and geothermal energy) on state land; maintains records of locatable mineral claims; administers the state's Surface Coal Mining Control and Reclamation Program; and provides mineral information to the public and technical assistance to the mining industry.

Related studies: mining engineering, geology, natural resource management, GIS.

LAND

The primary manager of Alaska's land holdings. Responsibilities include classifying land/land use planning; selling land and materials; leasing state land for recreation, commercial and industrial uses; managing major projects such as land selections to fulfill the state's land entitlement, reconstituting mental health lands, and permitting for development projects.

Related studies: natural resource management, law, history, GIS, geography, business/public administration.

WATER

Manages, plans, promotes and authorizes responsible use of Alaska's water resources. Its staff also works to resolve state title to submerged lands under all navigable water bodies; collects and provides information on quantity and quality of Alaska's vast surface, ground and coastal waters; issues water use permits and water rights; and protects lives and property through its Dam Safety Program.

Related studies: hydrology, natural resource management, law, engineering, geology.

DIVISION OF OIL & GAS

Develops and manages the state's oil and gas leasing programs which generate 85% of the State of Alaska's general fund revenues. The staff identifies prospective lease areas; performs geologic, economic, environmental and social analyses, develops a five-year leasing schedule, and conducts public review of proposed sales. The Division conducts competitive oil, gas and geothermal lease sales and monitors collection of all bonuses, rentals and royalties resulting from its leasing program.

Related studies: petroleum engineering, geology, economics, geophysics and associated fields, law, business/public administration, natural resource management.

DIVISION OF PARKS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION

Plans, develops and manages the Alaska State Park System, which hosts over six million visits annually, with assistance from its Volunteers in Parks and youth employment program. The park system provides interpretive programs for its visitors; administers grant programs and manages historic sites and a wildlife preserve. The Alaska Office of History & Archaeology is housed within the Division of Parks & Outdoor Recreation.

Related studies: park management, outdoor recreation, natural history, archaeology, anthropology, natural resource management, law enforcement.

DIVISION OF SUPPORT SERVICES

Provides financial and data processing services to the department. It is responsible for land title and land record information and the operation of the State Recorder's Office and the Uniform Commercial Code office. It also processes funds from oil, mining, land leases or sales and handles billing for those activities. The Land Records Information Section provides software (including web) and hardware services to the department, GIS, cartographic mapping services. They maintain and develop DNR's numerous databases and other information systems.

Related studies: business/public administration, accounting, database management, computer sciences, system design, GIS, AutoCad, cartography, geography.