

# 2007 University of Alaska Combined Research and Extension Plan of Work

## Natural Resource Stewardship

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### V(B). Program Knowledge Area(s)

#### 1. Program Knowledge Areas and Percentage

- 111 10% Conservation and Efficient Use of Water
- 112 20% Watershed Protection and Management
- 122 15% Management and Control of Forest and Range Fires
- 123 15% Management and Sustainability of Forest Resources
- 131 10% Alternative Uses of Land
- 134 10% Outdoor Recreation
- 605 10% Natural Resource and Environmental Economics
- 608 10% Community Resource Planning and Development

### V(C). Planned Program (Situation and Scope)

#### 1. Situation and priorities

Alaska is a vast geographic area (375 million acres) rich in natural resources with great diversity in land form, forest resources, mineral and energy resources, water resources and human culture. Most of Alaska's lands are in public ownership. Federal lands make up 66% of Alaska's total land.

Alaska federal land management policies are set by national priorities which may conflict with Alaskan interests.

44 million acres of Alaska's lands are private lands owned by Alaska Native Regional and Village Corporations wholly owned by Alaska Natives and use of the resources on them is tightly controlled.

Many Native Corporation lands are primarily used by Native Alaskan shareholders for subsistence activities.

The State of Alaska retains subsurface ownership of all lands deeded to it at statehood, even when those lands are sold as private property.

Less than 1% of Alaska's total land mass is in private ownership.

Management and use of Alaska land is often weighed towards interests other than those of local residents.

There are enormous stretches of Alaska with no residential population.

Alaska's economy is similar to an emerging colonial economy heavily reliant on natural resource extraction with limited secondary processing in state.

Tourism is a growing economic sector that promotes a pristine environment and diverse cultures.

Most of Alaska's largest tourism businesses are owned and operated by out of state businesses.

Many Alaskans are actively involved in tourist based small businesses.

Long time Alaskans often refer to the development of the oil pipeline a turning point in Alaska's demography, economy, social structure, and land use.

In 1970 Alaska Natives comprised 21% of the population; today they are only 11% of the population.

The majority of Alaskans are urbanites living in Anchorage, Fairbanks and Juneau.

As Alaska matures there will be changes in the State's demographics, economy, social structure and land use.

The scope of the issues addressed in this program are larger than any one organization is capable of addressing; therefore effectively addressing natural resources issues will depend on forming partnerships with credible, research-based organizations and other land grant institutions.

The natural resources program will provide information for stakeholders on issues related to forest resources, mineral and non-petroleum energy resources, water resources and rural communities; provide skill training in topics such as wood energy, water quality monitoring, management of local water resources, identification of rocks and minerals of economic importance, use of global positioning systems and geographic information systems to locate important resources, reviewing economic analysis information to assist in planning and managing natural resources, evaluating economic options for rural communities, and use of natural resource micro-business opportunities for rural communities.

The priorities of natural resource programming will be to reflect stakeholders' interests.

### V(D). Planned Program (Assumptions and Goals)

#### 1. Assumptions made for the Program

Alaska's natural resources have been inventoried to various degrees.

Forest resources managed by the National Forest Service in the Tongass and Chugach forests have been extensively studied.

Many remote forests in southeast Alaska have been poorly studied.

Much of the science needed by Extension provide natural resources skill training and to provide needed public information resources is available.

There are a number of qualified technical resources for Extension: UAF Agriculture and Forestry Experiment Station (AFES), the US Geologic Survey, US Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, US Forest Service, Alaska Department of Natural

## Resources.

UAF AFES and Geophysical Institute faculty and staff have conducted extensive research regarding global climatic change, disturbed site reclamation, managing boreal forests, and managing change in rural communities.

UAF Rasmussen Library has an extensive Alaska section with many one of a kind research reports on Alaska's natural resources.

University of Alaska Anchorage Consortium Library is a new facility that combines the research of many federal and state natural resource management agencies in one facility. It is assumed that these units will continue research of Alaska's natural resources and that the research findings will be readily available.

Demand for Alaska's forest resources is low due to foreign competition.

As foreign forest resources become scarce the demand to Alaska forest resources will increase. Within Alaska the knowledge base and manufacturing framework for a forest products industry is high.

There will continue to be divisive conflicts regarding forest resource harvesting on federal lands, less of this conflict on state lands, and little conflict regarding forest resource harvesting on Native corporation lands and other private lands.

Interest in local wood energy projects will increase.

Rural communities will increasingly look at nearby forest resources as economic and personal use needs.

World markets for mineral resources have spurred mineral exploration and mine development in Alaska.

State and federal laws and regulations add cost to mineral extraction requiring high prices to support large capital investments and infrastructure development needed to support modern mines.

Assuming continued high value for Alaska's mineral resources.

Resource extraction and population growth will affect Alaska's water resources.

Assuming Alaskans and US population will place a high value on maintaining Alaska's water resources.

The value of maintaining water resources is a cost against utilization of forest and mineral resources.

Stakeholders are assumed to have transient interest in natural resource management and development.

Natural resources extraction plans will create local interest in the issue.

Groups are polarized related to the use of Alaska natural resources.

Extension will establish itself as a clearinghouse of non-biased, research-based, consumer-friendly information for stakeholder.

The success of this program will depend on the ability of faculty and staff to secure external funds.

## 2. Ultimate goal(s) of this Program

Create Partnerships Create and develop long term partnerships with government agencies, other land grant institutions, and other units of the University of Alaska system, external funding sources and stakeholder groups to develop unbiased information regarding contemporary natural resource issues affecting stakeholders.

Provide Information and Basic Skills Assist stakeholders in making informed decisions regarding utilization of valued natural resources (forest resources, mineral resources, water resources), and rural communities by providing extension information regarding those resources; and, provide stakeholders with basic skills to engage them in natural resource assessment, management and use.

Change Stakeholder Behavior Stakeholders will seek information on natural resource issues of significance to them from Extension and it's partners who will have "just in time" science based information available for those stakeholders resulting in better informed and more positively engaged stakeholders; and, more Alaska youth will receive basic natural resource skill training for early entry into natural resource management jobs, and will choose careers managing Alaska's natural resources.

## V(F). Planned Program (Activity)

### 1. Activity for the Program

Develop integrated and/or multi-state projects concerning natural resources stewardship goals within the University of Alaska Fairbanks and with other land grant institutions.

Develop criteria to broadly define the temporal natural resource interests of stakeholders so the program's activities address the needs of those Alaskans most directly impacted by specific natural resource matters.

Develop partnerships with government agencies to identify and address stakeholder needs.

Regularly assess stakeholder needs and emerging natural resources issues impacting stakeholders.

Conduct literature reviews and review contemporary research relevant to this program.

Develop culturally and educationally relevant Extension publications (including fact sheets, bulletins, and newsletters) that provide unbiased, scientific information about natural resource issues.

Develop, review, and revise a web site to be the electronic portal for UAF Extension information on natural resources stewardship matters of concern to stakeholders.

Develop, plan, deliver, evaluate and revise as needed extension workshops, demonstrations and basic skill trainings.

Facilitated discussions and other meetings that address stakeholder needs in or near their communities.

Develop, conduct and review 4-H projects related to the natural resource stewardship program

Develop, plan, conduct, evaluate and revise as needed young adult stakeholder workforce readiness trainings that prepare youth for entry-level positions in natural resource management, use and/or protection jobs.

Develop, deliver, facilitate and evaluate natural resource stewardship informational discussions with non-stakeholder majority urban populations to increase their awareness of natural resource issues and the values and needs of stakeholders relative to natural resource use, management and protection.

Coordinate and assist the UAF School of Natural Resources and Agricultural Sciences and other units of the University of Alaska in recruiting and graduating young Alaskans with endorsements, certificates and degrees that result in careers in managing, using and protecting natural resources.