

2007 University of Alaska Combined Research and Extension Plan of Work

Natural Resource Use and Allocation- AFES

V(B). Program Knowledge Area(s)

1. Program Knowledge Areas and Percentage

- 134 25% Outdoor Recreation
- 605 25% Natural Resource and Environmental Economics
- 608 25% Community Resource Planning and Development
- 610 25% Domestic Policy Analysis

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

1. Situation and priorities

This program recognizes and provides knowledge and experience that supplements other research units within the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Schools of Management, Fisheries and Ocean Sciences, and the College of Engineering and Mines deal with the actual harvest and extraction industries. SNRAS/AFES supplements these programs by providing multi-resource planning and the process of determining public resource policy, resource economics and policy impact assessment, rural community culture and economic development analysis, environmental law and policy, and outdoor recreation resources management. In the area of rural community culture and economic development community and resource managers lack economic data and analysis which can help guide decision-making. Regional economic models will be developed of the reindeer and groundfish industries. We will continue research in environmental law and policy. Federal land managers are required to act within a prescribed statutory and regulatory framework that is supposed to guide their decision-making. The purpose of this work is to identify situations in which existing laws with conflicting purposes are supposed to be implemented, and try to reconcile how those laws may coexist. In planning public resource policy most agencies tend to use methods of involving the public that were developed over 30 years ago; i.e. public meetings, open houses, and public hearings. Is this because these techniques are the most effective, or is it because they are just the most familiar? This project will increase the level of awareness of new public involvement techniques as well as their advantages and disadvantages.

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

1. Assumptions made for the Program

Resource management in Alaska will continue to be constrained by needs to fulfill public expectations and perceptions
Follow processes that are legally required and meet the substantive requirement of state and federal law and policy
Costs of harvesting Alaska resources will continue to be high and need to be addressed in context of global markets
Outdoor and wildland recreation and nature-based tourism will continue to expand and become a relatively large part of the Alaska economy and social fabric

2. Ultimate goal(s) of this Program

Ultimate Goals for this program include:
Develop regional economic models for rural Alaska resource development impact on communities
Develop and examine public involvement processes that meet public expectations
Determine the effectiveness of natural resource and environmental laws
Determine the economic, managerial, and ecological aspects of outdoor recreation management

V(F). Planned Program (Activity)

1. Activity for the Program

Products will center on providing research supported information (models) to agency and government decision makers in resource planning, economic and environmental impact of natural resource use, market and non-market value of resources, and conflict resolution in rural communities and villages. Measurable outcomes will include peer reviewed publications, lay publications, village business/development plans, and citizen participation.