

# Agriculture department pays \$9 million for Alaska forests

JUNEAU — Alaska is receiving more than \$9,000,000 as its portion of national forests receipts collected in fiscal year 1990, Michael A. Barton, regional forester for the Alaska Region of the USDA Forest Service announced recently.

On Sept. 19, the U.S. Department of Agriculture made interim payments of \$246 million to states based on estimated national forests revenues for the year.

A final payment of \$100 million, based on actual receipts, was paid Dec. 7, bringing Alaska's total to \$9,057,119.59 for the year. Within Alaska, this is a 76 percent increase over last year's payment of \$5.1 million.

By law, 25 percent of the revenues collected from the use of the national forests are returned to the states where the lands are located.

The states use the funds for schools and roads. Barton said the receipts in Alaska are generated mostly from timber sales and fees from recreation use, mining and special uses.

This year's large payment reflects the high stumpage prices the government is receiving for timber.

The funds returned to Alaska are generated from 22.4 million acres of land on the Tongass and Chugach National Forests. The payments are distributed to the organized boroughs based on national forests acreage within the borough.