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Timothy K. Kock, who was recently named Extension 4-H/land resources agent for the University of Alaska Fairbanks Cooperative Extension Service in Juneau, has declined the position in favor of another job overseas. Kock, along with Keith T. Duren, who has worked with the Montana Cooperative Extension Service and David L. Lentz Jr., who has worked with the Wyoming Cooperative Extension Service, were three finalists for the Juneau position, which has been vacant since June 2004 following the retirement of Extension 4-H/ Land Resources Agent Jim Douglas.

“Of course we’re very disappointed in this rather sudden development,” said UAF Extension Associate Director William Butler, who chaired the search committee. “Our committee worked very hard to identify well-qualified candidates who would be an excellent match for the community’s needs.”

Kock, who was to begin his job with Extension the second week in January, is instead moving to Afghanistan where he will be promoting agriculture on behalf of the U.S. Agency for International Development.

“The good news is that we have a second qualified candidate for the Juneau position,” Butler said. In early November 2005 the search committee, composed of community members and university representatives, interviewed candidates, each of whom also gave public presentations to which the community was invited.

“Cooperative Extension is in negotiation with the second candidate to determine his interest in the 4-H and land resources position,” Butler said. “We want to move on this quickly to have an agent on board in Juneau as soon as possible.”

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