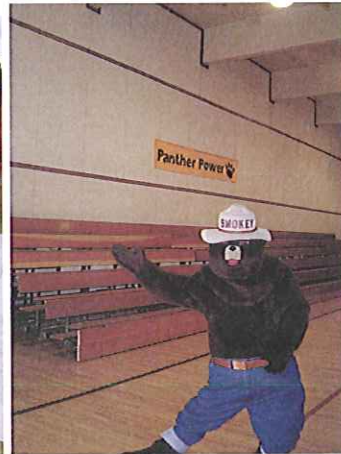
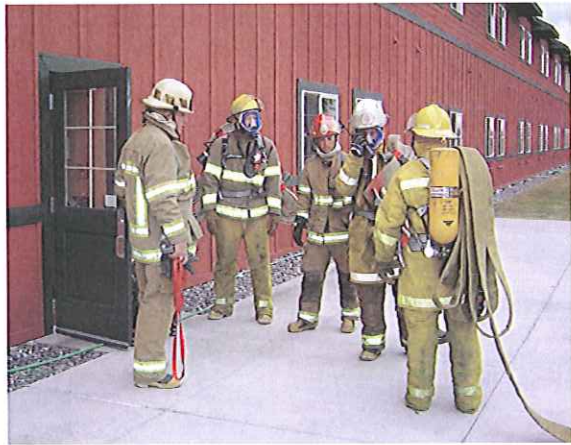


Community Wildfire Protection Plan

For Glennallen, At-Risk Community within
Copper River Valley, Alaska



Prepared for:

Glennallen Community

By: State of Alaska Division of Forestry, VCRA Office, GlennRich VFD, Bureau of Land Management Glennallen District Office, Cooperative Extension Service, Ahtna Inc, and Local Emergency Planning Committee

Executive Summary

Glennallen resides amid a vast forest of tightly clustered and aged spruce. These fuels surround the community and exist in large pockets between subdivisions. Minimal fuel reduction and almost no "Firewise" landscaping have been accomplished around homes or businesses. These factors reveal the risk of loss wildland fire would cause throughout the Glennallen community.

This CWPP has been created to collaboratively address the above stated fuel risks and to set forth steps to mitigate these hazards. Areas have been assessed to evaluate zones of greatest risk. Site specific fuel reduction, "Firewise" landscaping and community education will be the primary tools in addressing this wildfire risk.

Collaboration:

Alaska Division of Forestry/ Valdez Copper River Area was approached by the Local Emergency Planning Committee to address risk analysis of the Glennallen area. Forestry personnel partnered with Ahtna Inc. (the local native Corporation) and GlennRich Fire and Rescue and local land owners to help with the assessment and to prioritize areas of greatest vulnerability and loss from wildland fire.

Community Summary:

Glennallen is located approximately at 62.10 degrees North Latitude and -145.54 degrees (West) Longitude. The community resides along the Glenn Highway at its junction with the Richardson Highway and lies just outside the western boundary of Wrangell-St. Elias National Park.

The community is also the infrastructure hub of the Copper River Valley. Although the Valley's population is generally sprawled over many miles of highway and back-country, 554 of its' people, 269 housing units and well over 80 businesses and public offices are located inside the Glennallen area including 2 bulk fuel companies and the Trans Alaska Pipeline (pump 11). In the summer, the population of Glennallen soars with an influx of summer residents as well as fishermen and tourists. Several campgrounds, one hotel and numerous bed and breakfasts serve and house these visitors. Glennallen's many public and commercial offices serve the whole Valley; its' residents, students, tourists, sportsmen and motorists.

Copper Valley Electric and Copper Valley Telephone provide services for not only Glennallen, but for most of the rest of the Copper River Valley, which covers an area approximately the size of Ohio. School bus transportation for the entire Valley is also based out of Glennallen. Agencies such as the Bureau of Land Management and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game are based here as well, serving the back-country needs of visitors basin-wide. KCAM radio in Glennallen was founded during the 1964 Alaska earthquake, and it has been in place to serve the emergency communication needs

of the Copper River Valley ever since. A wildland fire in the Glennallen community has the potential to dramatically impact vital infrastructure for hundreds of miles.

Risk Assessment

The Glennallen Target area Fire Regime settles around a IV with the Condition Class fluctuating between D and E.

The Glennallen wildland/urban interface (WUI) as a whole is high risk and has been scouted and mapped into four working zones for the purpose of prioritizing mitigation tasks. Priorities are graded based on four factors: Risk/Hazard; natural and man made barriers; Fire protection response time and community Firewise rating.

Emergency response times vary little in Glennallen, about 15-30 minutes for an apparatus (both State Forestry and VFD) based out of Tazlina, 6 miles away. Many roads are heavily lined with thick spruce so access and egress beyond the Glenn Highway could easily be impinged. Aerial retardant from Palmer or Fairbanks is required at times and response times are 30-70 minutes respectively. The State of Alaska, Division of Forestry in the Copper River area shares a helicopter with the Tok area, so helitack response from Tazlina depends on fire conditions between these two areas. This helicopter is usually staged in Tok due to a higher incidence of remote, lightning caused fire there. When the helicopter is in the Tazlina, helitack response is about 10 minutes. From Tok, Palmer and Delta, response is about 1 hour, but this is strictly contingent on weather and smoke conditions through mountain passes in all cases.

Zone A (See Map A)

Zone A is the most populated area of Glennallen. It is primarily residential with a local school, private college and the local electrical coop. This zone also contains many of the community's primary businesses and the Post Office. It is threatened by miles of black spruce to the North and East of Glennallen. A North or Northeast wind is almost always a drying wind in the Copper River Valley. A wildfire driven by such a wind would quickly spread right into this part of the community. Without fuel mitigation on the outer perimeter of the properties, this zone will suffer great loss.

A more likely threat to this zone, and to Glennallen in general, is the threat of wildland fire from within the community. Large pockets of closely compacted black and white spruce lie within Zone A. Because 90 percent of wildland fires in the Copper River Valley are human caused, the threat of wildland fire spreading from neighboring private property is real. A multi-agency response with local VFDs and Alaska Division of Forestry would be inadequate to protect structures in the early hours of wildland fire in this zone.

The mitigation plan for either threat is the same. It is to create defensible space around structures in which to protect against wildland fire. Some homeowners within Zone A have landscaped and cleared in order to beautify their property or protect themselves from fire. Unfortunately most residence need much work. There remains a need to continue beyond past efforts and implement a Firewise plan throughout this zone.

Zone B

Zone B is made up of both residences and businesses and is threatened on four fronts. First it is threatened by fire coming from Zone A. Second is the threat of wildland fire from the North. Third, the area West of Zone B is continuous black spruce for miles with very few barriers. Finally, there is the fire threat from within the zone.

There is a series of small lakes and a creek in this area. However, their size and location would only slow advancement of a wind driven fire. The Glenn Highway also works as a partial barrier from the south, but there is not much protection from fire within the zone. Egress in a wildland incident would be hindered on Snowshoe Drive and in the housing behind the BLM office due to heavy fuels lining the roads. Only one residence in the area has met even minimum Firewise requirements.

Zone C

Zone C is almost totally private residences. It is threatened by wildland fire from the West with open black spruce and hardwood/spruce mixed forests. The South flank is characterized by a closely compacted, hardwood/white spruce mixed forest. To the East, Ahtna has a patchwork of clear-cuts which helps break up wildland fuel.

Access is the greatest threat to this area. A fire along the road anywhere would hinder or even stop access and egress on this road. Clearing and/or thinning spruce trees back along this road corridor will make emergency travel during a wildfire more feasible. The risk of fire from within the zone is great and fire along Hoover Road would spread quickly. The road itself creates a small barrier, but many homes are unprotected from wildland fire within the zone. Reducing fuels within these subdivisions, especially around structures is the surest way to protect them from wildland fire.

Zone D

Zone D is a very large area made up primarily of businesses and few homes. Private residences lay on the outskirts of the community. In the main part of town many businesses are backed against Black spruce forest including a community college and a large fuel distribution company (see appendix). There are also three service stations with large fuel tanks in this Zone. There are a few houses among the businesses tucked under large white spruce trees. Firewise practices will be encouraged in zone D. Grants will be sought to fund fuel mitigation work on adjacent agency land.

The trans-Alaska pipeline bisects the eastern part of this zone and creates both a barrier and another infrastructure to protect. Pump Station 11 is well protected. The businesses North of the Glenn Highway are built on large gravel pads that are almost barren of vegetation. .

Homes along the Richardson Hwy have easy egress to the highway. There is heavy white and black spruce component throughout this part of the community. Prevailing winds from the South and East threaten these homes from fire due to the heavy spruce forests. Fuel reduction around structures would give significant protection in a wildfire event. Most homes along this part of the community could use further fuel reduction. The incentives described above to collaboratively incorporate Firewise landscape and thin both agency and private land would be employed here as well.

Zone	Primary homes	Sheds/Garages	Commercial	Community	Seasonal
A	105	30	18	9	5
B	9	10	13	3	8
C	17	12			1
D	24	23	47	3	8

Overall Ratings for the Glennallen Target area is Risk/hazard being high to moderate. Barrier protection is moderate. Fire protection is good for Alaska with a "low risk". But Firewise rating for the community is a poor 28% on a scale of 100.

Mitigation Plan

The Goal of the Mitigation Plan is to protect life and property from the threat of wildfire in the Glennallen Community through education, fuel mitigation and natural resource management.

Objective 1: Involve the Public in Implementation of Firewise Principles and Home Fire Prevention

- **Support and educate the public in the Use of the Firewise program**
 - Brochures and mail outs
 - Schools and seminars
 - Newspaper articles, inserts and Radio spots
- **Educate the public on the use of safe burning practices**

Objective 2: Reduce the Risk of Wildfire through Site Specific Fuel Reduction

- Support and encourage the treatment of fuels around individual structures. Alaska, Division of Forestry will use a computer program that will superimpose zones of protection over Quickbird Imagery that depicts each site and structure.
- Prioritize areas for fuel reduction programs. Firewise standards are the minimum and are the first steps in fuel reduction. Also needed are cost-share programs to clear beyond Firewise standards. Further fuel reduction is needed on native and agency land that is adjacent to private property.
- Disposing of wildland debris by opening a discard site at no cost to the public. This could be either burned or turned over to a private entity to turn into wood chips/pellets.
- Reduce fuel loading by opening personal-use wood cutting areas in and around the Glennallen area.
- Reduce fuels around specific priority homes using Forestry personnel (see below).

- Six sites have been pre-arranged to begin fuels mitigation in key areas by Alaska Division of Forestry personnel.

Objective 3: Reduce the Accumulation of Fuels by Developing a Biomass Utilization Program

- Promote Biomass utilization programs for the Copper River Valley. The Kenny Lake School is in the process of utilizing biomass in its boiler unit. The Native Village of Gulkana has purchased the equipment to process wood byproducts into wood pellets. Other local businesses have also begun using biomass boiler units. By working together wood debris created by fuel reduction could be put to use as biofuel. Those processing the debris could cover their costs by selling to those using the end product.

Objective 4: Reduce the Risk of Wildfire Escape by Improving the Effectiveness of Fire Suppression Resources.

- Assist in the recruitment of wildland and structural firefighters. School recruitment, posters, Public Service announcements are only a few ways new recruits could be reached. Training these recruits will have to be accomplished by grants and donations.
- Continue in training and seeking grants to train local VFD firefighters and emergency wildland fire fighters in emergency response to WUI fire situations.
- Train local VFD to make Firewise assessments of homes and properties.

Objective 5: Clear and Reduce Fuels Along Roads with Poor Access to Ensure Egress During a Wildland Fire Incident and to Strengthen it as a Fire Barrier.

- Clear brush from 75 ft of centerline along Terrace drive, College Road and Snowshoe drive.
- Clear fuels from 75 ft of centerline along Hoover Road.
- Encourage DOT to brush out the shoulders of the Glenn and Richardson Highways within our target area.

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	Action Plan	Resources needed	Who is responsible
Description #1	Assist in community outreach and education of local home owners.		
	Promote and develop Firewise and wildland fire prevention workshops, presentations and displays for local events.		
Description #2	Assist in recruitment and training of volunteer fire department fire personnel.		CRSD; CRNA;GRFR
Tasks	Identify methods for recruiting firefighters; career day at local high schools, advertisements in newspapers, display ads at local stores and meeting areas. Work in conjunction with other agencies and organizations to expand employment and educational opportunities for newly trained firefighters		
	Identify opportunities to assist in the training of new recruited firefighters i.e. Code Red.		
Description #3	Coordinate the administration of biomass fuels program so that it includes the Glennallen and Copper River Valley areas.		AHTNA; DNRDOF
Tasks	Biomass marketing and utilization of small diameter wood may be a strategy to motivate businesses to help cover the cost of removing wildland fuels on state and federal lands.		


Description #4	Prioritize and coordinate hazardous fuels reduction projects		
	<p>Identify high risk areas and develop cost effective treatments.</p> <p>Support and encourage the treatment of wildland fuels around resident's homes through cost share incentives and the incentive of agency provided fuels mitigation on agency lands.</p> <p>Clear wildland fuels around properties on the East Side of Terrace Drive.</p> <p>Identify and coordinate six properties and begin fuels mitigation work.</p>		Homeowners; DNRDOF
Description #5	Develop, Monitor, and Update Glennallen Pre-Disaster Evacuation Plan <p>Evacuation <i>warnings, directives</i> and where warranted <i>orders</i> in the Copper River Basin will be carried out only by an on scene fire department that is registered with the State Fire Marshall (AS 18.70.075 and 090).</p> <p>The document "evacuation guidelines" created jointly by the Division of Forestry and Alaska Fire Service in consultation with multiple agencies and fire departments in Alaska; a "Field Guide To Evacuation Planning & Implementation" (02/13/01) will be implemented as the evacuation protocol in this CWPP.</p> <p>Emergency situations will be managed using the Incident Command System. Online training for ICS 100 and 200 is available online. In addition, VFD personnel can be nominated for ICS training funded by the state.</p>		CRSD, DOF,GRFR,AST

Signature Page

We below have agreed to the contents of this Community
Wildland Protection Plan:




AK Division of Forestry VCRA AFMO

 12/09/09

Fire Chief, GlennRich Fire and Rescue
Chairman, LEPC

AK Division of Forestry Regional Rep.

 12-14-09

LAND MANAGER, AHTNA INC.



Home on Drum Drive



Eastern shoulder of Terrace Drive



Businesses along south side of the Glenn Hwy are bordered by continuous Black Spruce

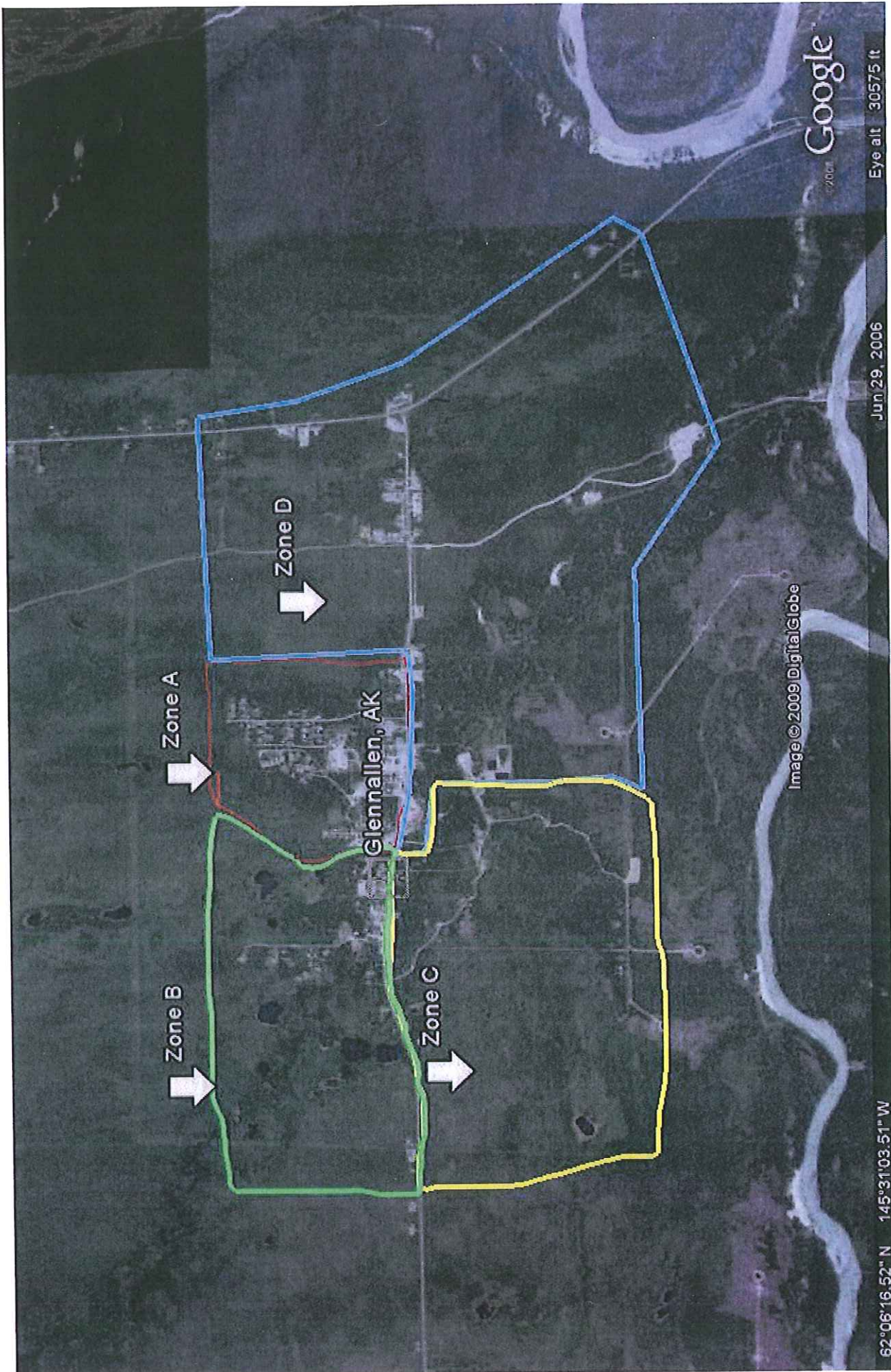




Prince William Sound Community College



Residence nestled in trees on Terrace Drive



Google

Eye alt 30575 ft

Jun 29, 2006

Image © 2009 DigitalGlobe

62°06'16.52" N 145°31'03.51" W

