

Greater Eagle Area CWPP – Mitigation Plan



Boundary Creek Fire near Eagle, AK (2005)

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I. Executive Summary

The mitigation plan for the Greater Eagle Area Community Wildland Fire Protection Plan (CWPP) includes recommendations for both communities and individual homeowners on how to lower their risk from wildland fire, based on the CWPP findings. The CWPP identified that the greater Eagle Area is at a moderate to high risk from wildland fire. Within the planning process, the community has prioritized areas to protect based on cultural, historical and ecological importance. This has provided a basis for the placement and type of hazard fuel reduction efforts (including shaded fuel breaks and mechanical treatments) and identified the opportunities for education/outreach in Firewise principles. The implementation of hazard fuel treatment techniques will be further guided by the alignment with the communities' priorities, locations, aesthetics, landownership, and fuel types.

II. Background

Eagle City and Eagle Village are located on the Yukon River approximately 6.5 miles west of the Canadian border/Yukon Territory. The greater Eagle area has an estimated population of approximately 153 people in 45 residences. Historically, the area has been prone to large, lightning-caused fires that have encroached upon the area from the wildlands. There is also concern of new fire starts from within the communities.

III. Goals and Objectives

A. The goal of this plan is to increase Firewise education, wildfire prevention, large-scale wildfire defensibility, and wildland fire response capabilities for both communities.

B. Objectives:

1. Educate and assist in implementing Alaska Firewise standards within the Greater Eagle Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) boundary. This includes promoting defensible space around individual structures and other Firewise principles.
2. Recommend potential locations for the construction of large scale hazardous fuel reduction areas to prevent the spread of wildfire into the community. This results in breaking up the continuity of fuels adjacent to and within the communities and creates operational areas of defense.
3. Increase the local wildland fire response capabilities with additional wildfire response/initial attack (IA) equipment and tools.

C. **Strategic Plan/Desired Condition:** *The priority values to be protected are life, property, infrastructure and cultural resources.*

1. **Objective #1: Educate and assist in implementing Alaska Firewise standards within the Greater Eagle Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) boundary. This includes promoting defensible space around individual structures and implementing other Firewise principles.**

a. Implementation of Alaska Firewise standards can be achieved through community involvement and assistance from state and federal agencies. Starting in the spring of 2020, BLM Alaska Fire Service (AFS) personnel will complete a comprehensive structure assessment along the Greater Eagle WUI boundary and can, as requested, advise individual landowners, the City and Village on specific mitigation measures on their individual properties.

b. Successful implementation of the Firewise program begins with individual landowners becoming familiar with Alaska Firewise standards (see Appendix B: Funding Resource Information). Each community and individual homeowner may apply for/request financial and/or implementation assistance through the programs and grant opportunities listed below.

Table 1: Alaska Firewise Standards Implementation Programs

	City of Eagle	Village of Eagle	Private Citizens
AK Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Community Fire Assistance FOA <i>Agency Assisting in the application:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BLM 	X	X	
Western WUI Grant Program <i>Agency Assisting in the application:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State of Alaska DNR Division of Forestry 	X	X	
Alaska Firewise Community Program <i>Agency Assisting in the application:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State of Alaska DNR Division of Forestry 	X	X	
RTRL/WUI Funds <i>Agency Assisting in the application:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tanana Chief's Conference 		X	
Alaska Forest Stewardship Program <i>Agency Assisting in the application:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State of Alaska DNR Division of Forestry 			X

4. Objective #2: Provide location recommendations for the construction of large scale hazardous fuel reduction areas to prevent the spread of wildfire into the community. This results in breaking up the continuity of fuels adjacent to and within the communities and creates operational areas of defense.

Note: The following recommendations are based on the potential threat from wildfire and values at risk. Recommended treatments and exact locational placements, based on CWPP prioritization efforts, will be contingent upon the landowner(s) approval.

a. A risk assessment, completed in September 2019 by AFS personnel, identified areas of moderate to high threat from wildfire spread both inside and out of the greater Eagle area. Within 1 mile of the communities' WUI boundary a continuous, fire-prone landscape of black spruce exists. This dangerous fuel situation can be mitigated through various techniques of thinning and tree removal. Additionally, overgrown firelines, created in response to fires in 2004, can be strengthened/improved. (see Appendix A: Maps)

b. The mitigation plan prioritizes areas within the WUI boundary as priority and moderate. There are different mitigation recommendations for each area and funding opportunities differ depending on landownership and community jurisdiction. Various treatments may be subject to National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis/review or other specific landowner policies and directives.

(1) A shaded fuelbreak includes the removal of all dead trees, standing or on the ground, plus the creation of 8-10 foot spacing between live-standing black spruce. All remaining trees are limbed by removing any lower branches (ladder fuels) for up to 5-6 feet off the ground. Any suitable firewood (>4 inches in diameter) may be stacked in lengths and available per landowners' policies. All other material/woody debris is stacked to burn, away from standing timber to reduce mortality and scorch. These debris burns will occur as a prescribed burn, likely at a later time, and under a certain prescription for safe burning conditions. The shaded fuelbreak technique not only reduces the fuel loading, it discourages growth of grasses which are also very prone to fire spread, and potentially keeps permafrost from thawing.

(2) Mechanical treatments may include, but are not limited to, mastication, shearblading and/or roller drum applications. This most closely mimics the large, severe, stand replacement fire regime without the safety risk of a severe fire near a community.

(a) Biomass reutilization is a priority in all areas that receive treatments. Trees >4 inches in diameter will be stacked and set aside for firewood. Each of the Community Councils should determine how the wood is dispersed throughout the communities.

c. **Priority Areas of Concern** recommended projects:

(1) Eagle Village: Create an elliptical shaded fuelbreak encompassing Round Lake, Long Lake and Cuban Lake.

(2) West of the City of Eagle: Construct shaded fuelbreak(s) and/or mechanically treated polygons east and/or west of American Creek. Improve 2004 constructed fireline west of American Creek with equipment and/or hand thinning

(3) South of the City of Eagle: Improve 2004 fireline and/or cut a new fuelbreak and/or treated polygons between WUI boundary and structures.

d. **Moderate Areas of Concern** recommended projects:

(1) Eagle Road/New Village Road shaded fuelbreak: Create a fuelbreak connecting Eagle Rd. to New Village Rd., south and west of the airport and all private property. Improvements can be made to the 2004 constructed fuelbreak in conjunction to making improvements to the utility line easement. Specific fuelbreak locations will be revisited after the priority areas of concern have been addressed.

(2) Eagle Dump expanded fuel break. Improve upon fuel break up to 200 feet.

3. Objective #3: Increase the local wildland fire response capabilities with an increase in initial attack (IA) equipment.

a. The greater Eagle area has limited equipment available for wildland fire initial attack. The AFS initial attack resources have a 1-hour response time from when a fire is reported. During the initial risk assessment, community members, the local volunteer fire department and AFS personnel identified equipment needs - identified as follows:.

- (1) **Wildland Fire Equipment Needs:**
 - (a) Trailer with >500 gallon tank, pump and hose complement, that can be hitched up to an available truck for wildland fire response.
 - (b) High-pressure pumps with hose/sprinkler complement.
 - (2) **Wildland Fire Tools:**
 - (a) Backpack pumps
 - (b) Pulaski's/shovels
 - (3) **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**
 - (a) Nomex pants/shirts or overalls
 - (b) Leather gloves
 - (c) Eye protection, hardhats
- b. Funding opportunities (Appendix B).
- (1) **State of Alaska DNR – Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA)**
 - (2) **FEMA Fire Prevention and Safety Grants (FP&S)**

IV. Roles and Responsibilities

This mitigation plan sets forth the goals and objectives for both the City and Village to mitigate the risk of wildland fire per the risk assessment and CWPP planning effort completed by AFS personnel. Landownership of proposed treatment areas will dictate which funding opportunities are available for each project, which agencies will assist in the procurement of funds, and which entities will provide support in the implementation.

Table 2: Roles and Responsibility Matrix

Primary Areas of Concern:				
Proposed Treatment Area <i>/document reference</i>	Responsible Community	Landowner	Assisting Agency	Funding
Eagle Village Shaded Fuelbreak: <i>III.B.4.c.(1)</i>	Village of Eagle	-Village of Eagle -Han Gwich'in Corp	-BIA -TCC -BLM	-RTRL/WUI - BLM, Good Neighbor Authority
City of Eagle West Fuelbreak(s) / Fire Line Improvement: <i>III.B.4.c.(2)</i>	City of Eagle	-BLM	-BLM	-BLM, Community Assistance

Primary Areas of Concern Continued:				
City of Eagle South Shaded Fuelbreak/Polygons: <i>III.B.4.c.(3)</i>	City of Eagle	-DNR -City of Eagle -Private	-BLM -DNR	-BLM, Good Neighbor Authority - Western WUI Grant Program
Moderate Areas of Concern:				
Eagle Rd/New Village Rd: Shaded Fuelbreak <i>III.B.4.2.d.(1)</i>	City of Eagle and/or Village of Eagle	-Doyon LLC -DNR -Han Gwich'in Corp	-BIA -DNR -TCC -BLM	-RTRL/WUI - Western WUI Grant Program -BLM, Good Neighbor Authority
Eagle Dump <i>III.B.4.d.(2)</i>	City of Eagle and/or Village of Eagle	-DNR -Han Gwich'in Corp -Doyon	-BIA -TCC -AFS	-RTRL/WUI -Indian Environmental General Assistance Program (IGAP)

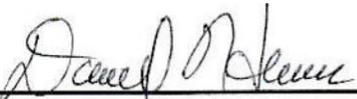
V. Monitoring Plan

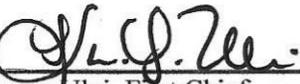
A. This plan is multi-jurisdictional, therefore utilizing different funding mechanisms depending on the location of each treatment. Recognizing this is a multi-year endeavor, each of the communities' councils should evaluate this plan annually until the above projects are completed.

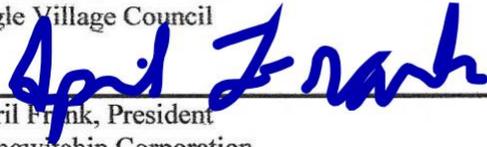
1. Each community and/or AFS personnel should annually evaluate completed treatments to determine current state and functionality of the treatments in meeting the goals and objectives set forth in the Greater Eagle Area CWPP Mitigation Plan. Planning of maintenance for completed treatments should begin at least one year prior to the treatments failure to meet objectives (a year prior to a treatment area becoming once again overgrown).

VI. Signature Page:

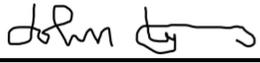
THIS PLAN HAS BEEN REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY THE FOLLOWING:

X  Date 6-14-20
Daniel Helmer, City Mayor
City of Eagle

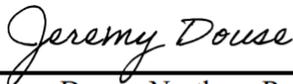
X  Date 7-21-20
Karma Ulvi, First Chief
Eagle Village Council

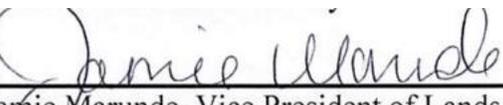
X  Date 7-21-20
April Frank, President
Hungwitchin Corporation

X  Date 7-22-2020
Tom St. Clair, Fire Management Officer
Bureau of Indian Affairs

X  Date 7/21/20
John Lyons, Fire Management Officer (Acting)
Upper Yukon Zone, BLM Alaska Fire Service

X **BEN SEIFERT** Digitally signed by BEN SEIFERT
Date: 2020.07.27 17:28:34 -08'00'
Ben Seifert, Fire Management Officer
Fairbanks/Arctic District BLM Alaska

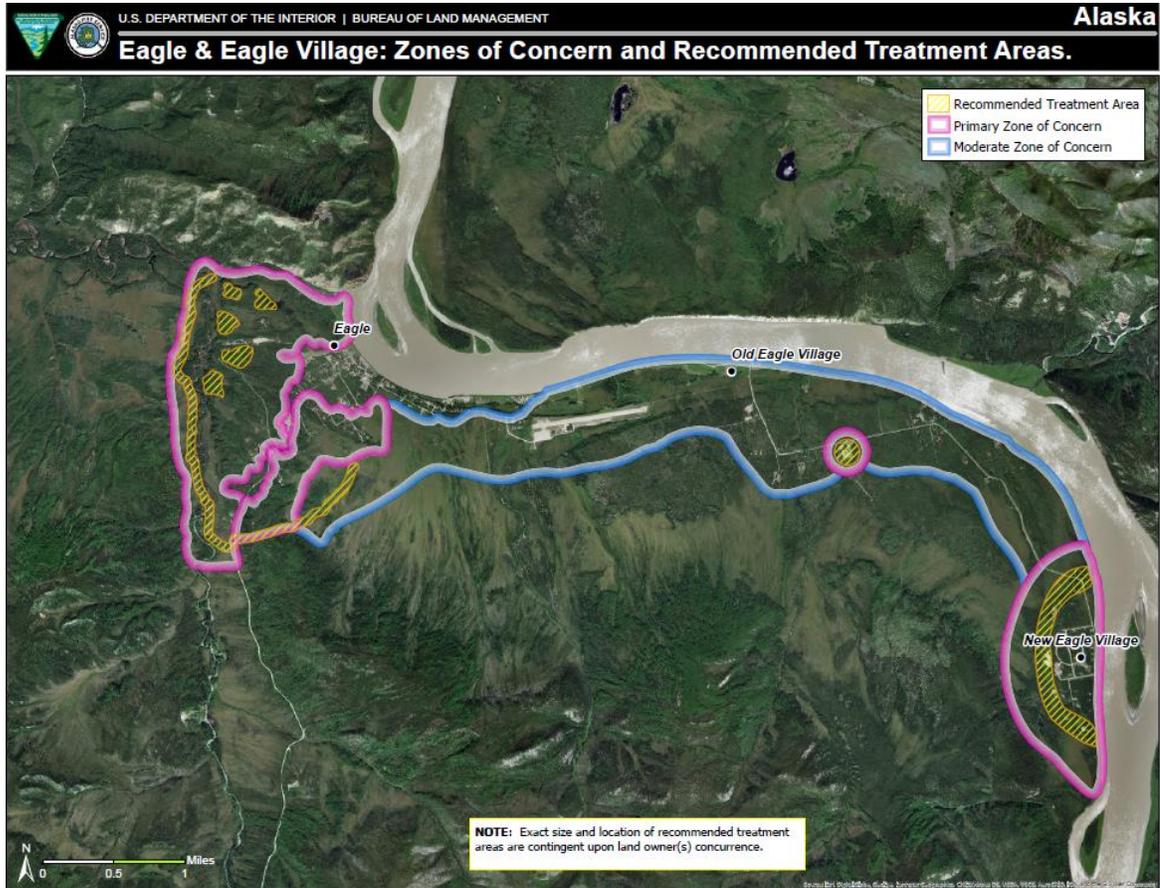
X  Date 7-22-20
Jeremy Douse, Northern Regional Forester
Alaska Division of Forestry

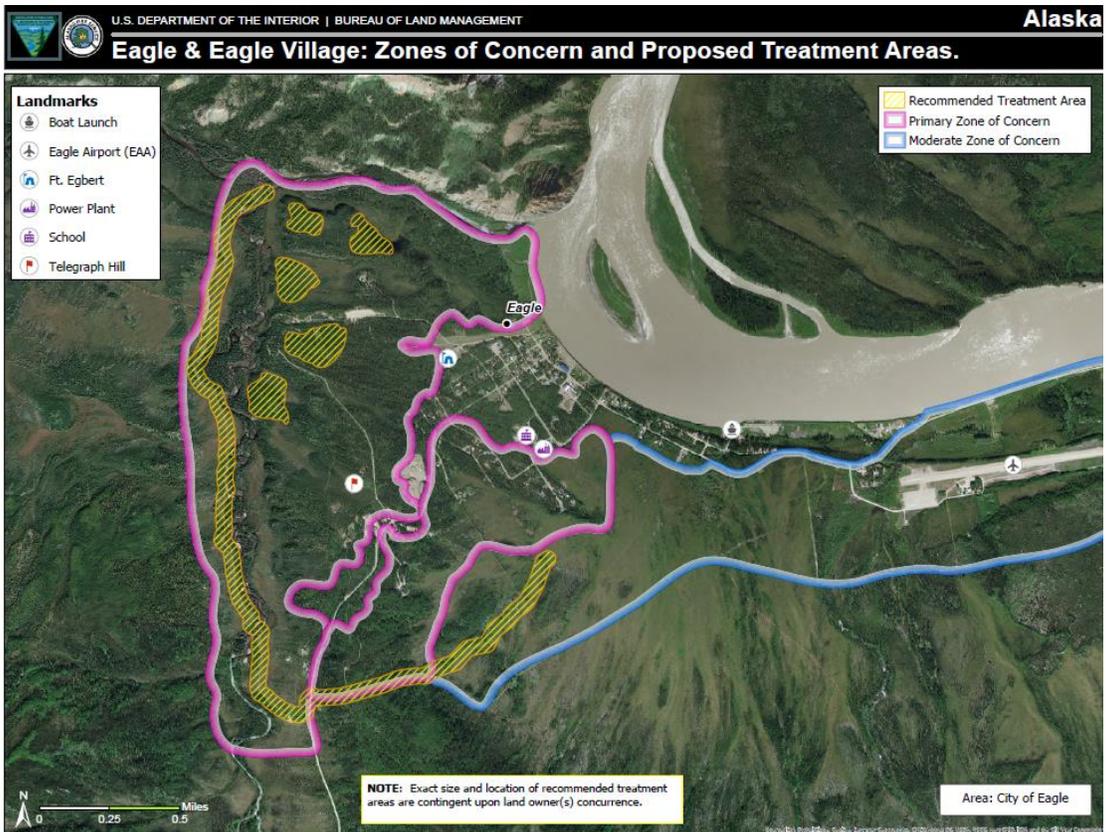
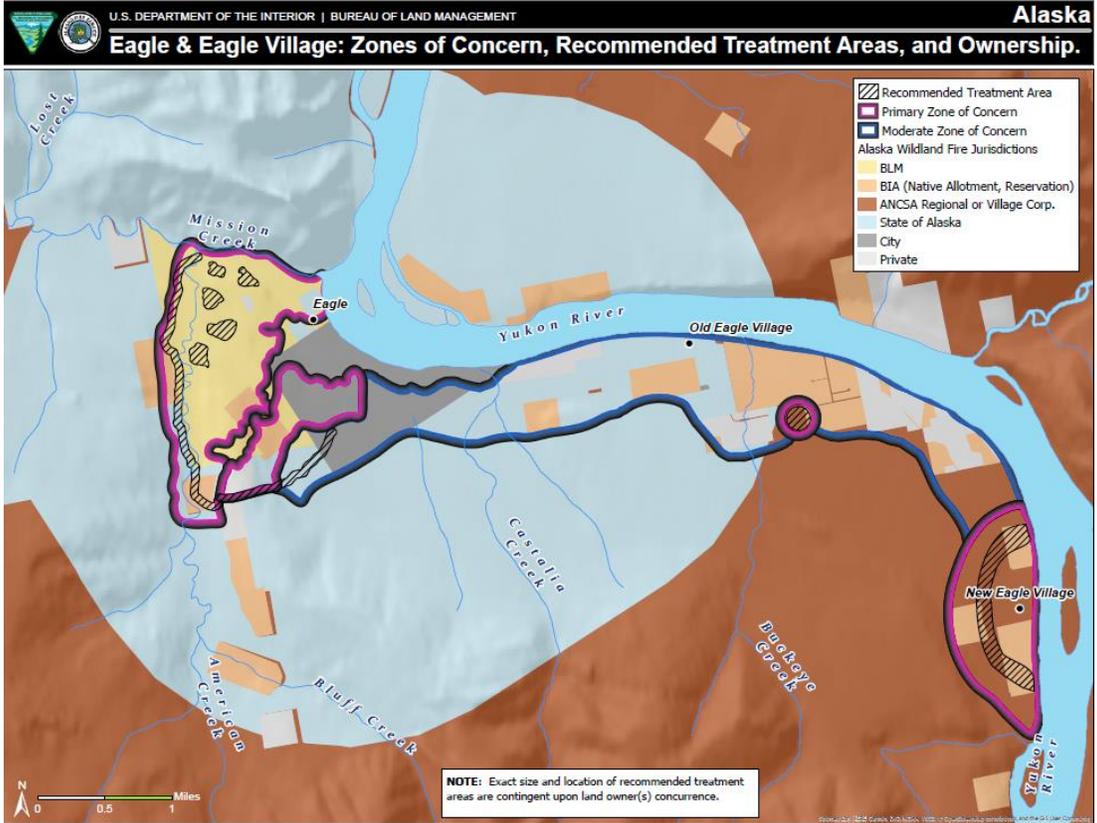
X  Date 9/2/2020
Jamie Marunde, Vice President of Lands
Deyon LLC.

X  Date 7.21.2020
Brian Mork, Assistant Fire Management Officer
National Park Service Alaska - Eastern Area Fire Management

Prepared by:
Chris Demers (Fuels Management Specialist) Upper Yukon Zone, BLM Alaska Fire Service
Appendix A: Maps

1. Overview Areas of Concern
2. Ownership with Areas of Concern
3. City of Eagle: Area of Concern /Proposed Treatment Area(s)
4. Eagle Village: Area of Concern/Proposed Treatment Area





Appendix B: Funding Resource Information

I. Firewise Resources

- A. Firewise Communities/USA:
<http://forestry.alaska.gov/fire/firewise>
- B. Alaska Firewise Brochure:
<http://forestry.alaska.gov/Assets/pdfs/home/firewise09.pdf>
- C. Forest Stewardship Program:
<http://forestry.alaska.gov/stewardship/index>
- D. Western Wildland Urban Interface Grants:
<http://forestry.alaska.gov/fire/cwpp/wuigrants>
- E. BLM AK Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Community Fire Assistance FOA
[https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/search-grants.html? keywords=L19AS00104](https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/search-grants.html?keywords=L19AS00104)
- F. Reserved Treaty Rights Lands (RTRL) Program
<https://www.bia.gov/regional-offices/alaska/natural-resources/wildland-fire-management>

<https://www.tananachiefs.org/services/forestry/>
- G. Indian Environmental General Assistance Program (GAP)
<https://www.epa.gov/tribal/indian-environmental-general-assistance-program-gap>

II. Fire Equipment and Proper Protective Equipment

- A. Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA)
<http://forestry.alaska.gov/fire/vfa>
- B. U.S. Fire Administration
<https://www.usfa.fema.gov/grants/>