COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN

Tazlina

VALDEZ - COPPER RIVER
DIVISION OF FORESTRY & FIRE PROTECTION

ALASKA DIVISION OF FORESTRY & FIRE PROTECTION

A Cooperative Agreement Grant provided funding through BLM, Glennallen Field Office to SOA, Valdez-Copper River Area Forestry & Fire Protection. We appreciate the opportunity this grant gave our office to create, develop and execute writing ten (10) Community Wildfire Protection Plans for the Copper River Basin. Partnerships like this help agencies plan, collaborate, and take action to make our communities safer and better prepared in the event of large-scale wildland fire.

The Valdez-Copper River Area Community Wildfire Protection Plans have been created and written by Emily Hjortstorp, CWPP Project Coordinator, and Jenny Moser, Wildland Fire Prevention Lead, along with help and input from the local community and 3rd party resources. Guidelines suggested in “Preparing a Community Wildfire Protection Plan — A Handbook for Wildland-Urban Interface Communities” that is posted on the State of Alaska Website were followed during the development of this plan. An interactive website and a local Valdez-Copper River Area Forestry & Fire Protection logo were also created through this grant funded project.

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Executive Summary

Wildland fire is a natural event in the boreal forest, which extends throughout much of Alaska, including the Copper River Basin. Being a fire-prone ecosystem, the effects of fire are needed to regenerate old forests, introduce nutrients to the soil, and create a mosaic pattern on the landscape of new-growth vegetation, which provides diversity and valuable animal habitat. Fires in the wildlands of Alaska can be beneficial, but they are extremely destructive to our communities, infrastructure, areas of cultural significance, and resource values. These areas must be protected from the threat of wildland fire. Thunderstorms and associated lightning strikes are a frequent cause for wildland fire concern during the summer. An even greater threat of wildland fire is posed by human-caused fires, often started in or around our communities, which cause more damage with less acres burned than a lightning caused wildland fire in a remote area.

Proper planning and preparation can reduce the destructive effects of wildland fire. This CWPP analyzes the risk of wildland fire to the Tazlina community planning area and outlines mitigation efforts to reduce future wildland fire hazards.

The community risk/hazardous fuels assessment confirmed that fuel accumulation and threat of danger from wildland fire to Tazlina is high to moderate. This rating is due to vegetative fuel types and configuration in and outside the community. Hazards that reside in the Tazlina planning area consist of many homes and businesses with unimproved roads and/or minimal gravel to support large fire apparatus and no clear road sings. Many homes do not have adequate defensible space and are surrounded by hazardous debris including inoperable vehicles, uninhabitable trailers, and buildings.

Additionally, in the 1990s, the Kenai Peninsula and Copper River Basin experienced a spruce beetle *(Dendroctonus rufipennis)* outbreak that affected nearly 2.3 million acres by its peak in 1996, killing most large diameter spruce trees in many parts of these regions *(Werner et al. 2006)*. The Copper River Basin saw large scale infestation from Alaska spruce beetle for many years during this outbreak, resulting in heavy fuel loading of standing and fallen beetle-killed spruce. The result of over a decade of this epidemic is heavy fuel loading of standing and fallen beetle killed spruce. Spruce beetle is a natural forest disturbance much like wildland fire, which can cause an increase in fuel loading and resistance to suppression efforts. These conditions set the stage for a catastrophic wildland fire event if efforts are not taken to reduce the risk.

Based on community input from the 2021/2022 survey results, the top hazards Tazlina residents identified include: lack of clear road signage, unimproved roads with minimal gravel to support large fire apparatus, needs for equipment and training for the Glenn-Rich Volunteer Fire Department, and no free subsurface water source. Only surface water sources are available to fill equipment with and or a pay by the gallon community well. Additionally, homes and community buildings need to be Firewised.

The community risk and wildland fire hazard ratings are used to create an action plan to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildland fire. The plan evaluates various risk elements and encompassing vegetation types prone to fueling fires, such as black and white spruce, mixed hardwood forests, grass, and shrub lands. These fuels pose high flammability and can contribute to fires of intense magnitude. Additionally, within the community, there are added hazards like tall dry grass during pre-green up, debris, abandoned inoperable vehicles near residences, and challenges to emergency responders increasing the risk and hazards of wildland fire potential and emergency response. Beyond the community periphery, adjacent vegetative fuels extend wildland fire risk.

Though natural barriers like the Copper River and Tazlina River provide some defense, notable vulnerabilities persist, particularly to the west, north and south of the community to include high concentration of continuous fuels. Additionally, the local Volunteer Fire Department (VFD) encounters obstacles due to limited resources, training, and equipment.

Background

The Tazlina Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) is a collaborative effort that has been created in response to the 2003 Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA) which directs communities at risk for wildland fire to develop a risk assessment and mitigation plan. The Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) process assists communities in developing an appropriate and desired wildfire protection plan to guide future mitigation efforts. Completion of this CWPP involved the following steps:

- Identify stakeholders, land management agencies and interested parties.
- Establish a community planning area.
- Develop a community risk assessment.
- Ongoing opportunities for community input through surveys, public meetings, and creation of a dedicated website
- Address priorities through stake holder meetings and opportunity for public input.
- Development of an action plan and task matrix
- Finalization of the plan with a total of three public community meetings throughout the process

This Community Wildfire Protection Plan will be the first for Tazlina. Creating a cost share program that can be implemented in the following years to assist homeowners with costs that they encounter to create defensible space around their homes is a goal outlined in the Action Plan. This type of program was developed for the Glennallen and McCarthy communities in 2009 and 2011. This was a highly successful program that resulted in many homeowners clearing trees and creating adequate defensible space around their residences. The natural conditions surrounding Tazlina remain equally concerning, with areas of beetle killed trees and fuel loading of dead and down trees, that pose a threat to the wildland urban interface.

Refer to Appendix A for guidance on Alaska statewide interagency wildland fire management response and planning.

Collaboration

The Alaska Division of Forestry & Fire Protection (DOF)/ Valdez-Copper River Area office partnered with members to help with the identification, assessment, and prioritization areas of greatest risk and vulnerability in the event of a wildland fire.

- **Bureau of Land Management (BLM)**
- **Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)**
- **Copper River Basin Regional Housing Authority**
- **Fjørdland Fire Solutions LLC.**
- **Local landowners, business owners, and community**
- **Native Village of Tazlina**
- **Valdez-Copper River Area Division of Forestry & Fire Protection (DOF)**
- **Wrangell - St. Elias National Park and Preserve (NPS)**

COMMUNITY PROCESS

Community input was solicited by in-person visits to Tazlina including both formal and informal meetings, presence at public events, online and mail delivered surveys with return postage paid, social media, and a dedicated website displaying the most up to date information with ways to provide feedback. All ideas were collected and analyzed to determine the priority needs and actions included in this plan.

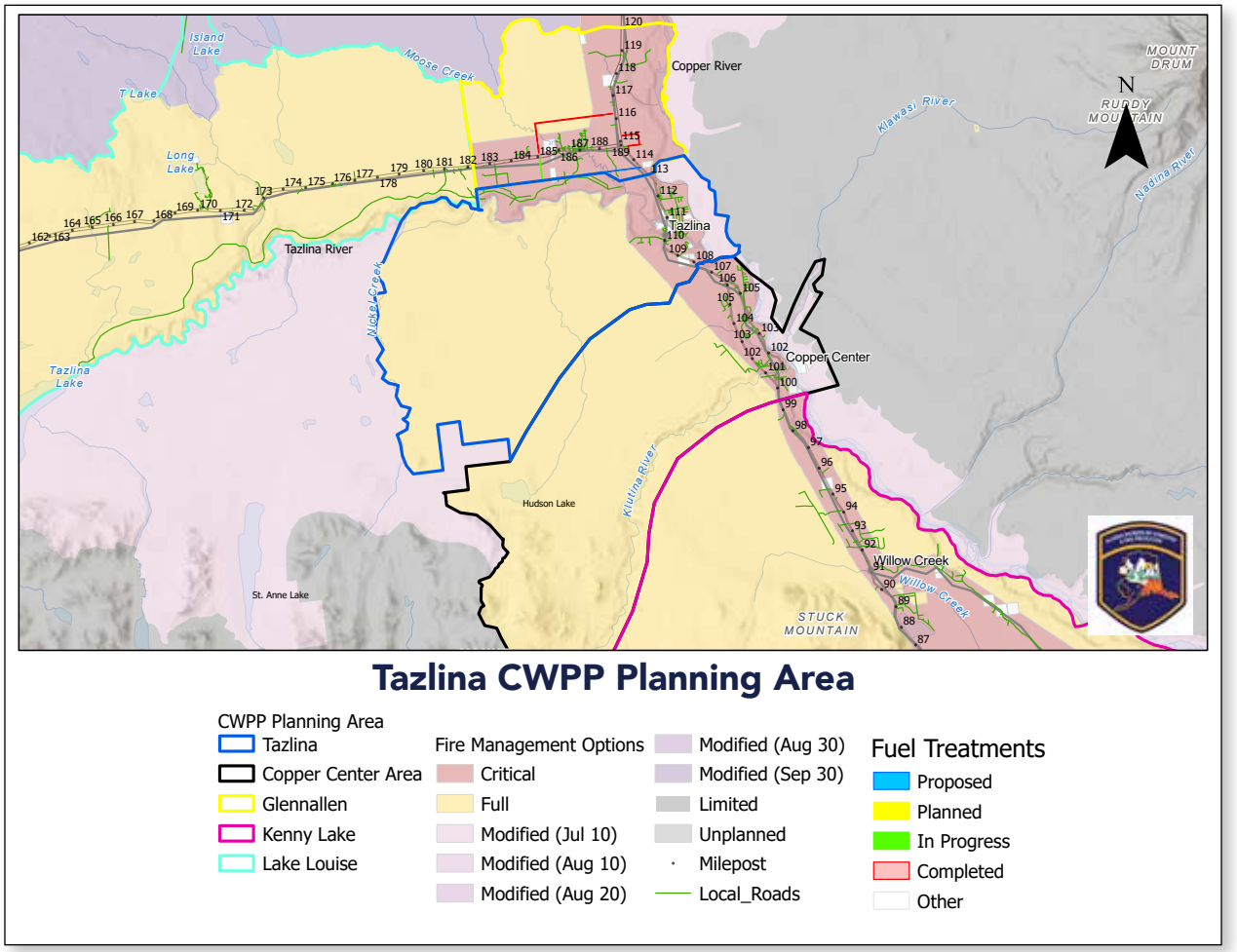
CWPP PLANNING AREA

A Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Boundary is the line where human development meets and intermingles with undeveloped wildland and vegetative fuels. The Tazlina (WUI) Boundary is designated to incorporate the surrounding Critical and Full-Fire-Management option, which includes all residents and infrastructure of the area as well as the surrounding lands that would cause a threat in the event of a wildland fire. A fire management option is a classification assigned by the jurisdictional agency that provides fire protection and determines the initial response to a wildland fire. The goal is to mitigate the potential for catastrophic wildland fire within this boundary by recognizing the hazards, prioritizing, and developing an action plan with clear goals and objectives.

Critical-Fire-Management option is defined by the State of Alaska and Alaska Fire Service as “The highest priority for suppression actions. Lands in wildland urban interface and other densely populated areas where there is an immediate threat to human life, primary residences, inhabited property, community-dependent infrastructure, and structural resources designated as National Historic Landmarks should be considered for the Critical Management Option. This classification is applicable to an entire village or town as well as a single inhabited structure.”

Full-Fire-Management option is defined by the State of Alaska and Alaska Fire Service as “High priority but below Critical. This option provides for protection of moderately populated areas, cultural and archeological sites, developed recreational facilities, physical developments, administrative sites and cabins, structures, high-value natural resources, and other high-value areas.”

The Tazlina Community Wildfire Protection Planning Area covers from mile 107.5 to mile 113 of the Richardson Highway where it shares its northern boundary with Glennallen and southern boundary with Copper Center’s planning area. It crosses the Copper River to include the eastern banks and to the west to include culturally sensitive areas around Tazlina encompassing full fire management lands. Campgrounds, businesses, homes, recreation cabins, and culturally sensitive areas are all included in this planning area.



Community Profile

Tazlina lies outside the western boundary of Wrangell - St. Elias National Park and Preserve, about 5 miles southeast of Glennallen. Tazlina was originally a fish camp used by the Ahtna people, who historically moved up and down the Copper River and its tributaries. Tazlina is an Athabascan word meaning "swift water." A permanent village was established on the north and south banks of the Tazlina River near its confluence with the Copper River by the 1900's. In 1956, the Catholic Boarding School was built in Tazlina, housing students from all over the state. In 1971, the boarding school closed, soon after the Glennallen Public School was established. According to the 2020 census data there are currently 244 people living in the community of Tazlina. During the summer, subsistence dip-netting for salmon in the world-famous Copper River brings large numbers of Alaskans and tourists through the Copper River Basin, where many of them stop in Tazlina to enjoy the beautiful Tazlina River and get their fishing license, fuel, and last-minute groceries from Tazlina River Trading Post. Gardening, berry picking, herb gathering, and hunting are popular pursuits among locals. Winter activities include trapping, snow machining, and ice fishing.

The natural resource values in Tazlina consist of subsistence fishing, hunting, forest foraging, berry picking, and personal firewood use timber harvesting. Sensitive cultural sites in the Tazlina planning area are located at and around the village, along the corridor of the Copper River and surrounding creek drainages.

LOCATION

The Community of Tazlina is in the Copper River Basin in South Central Alaska. Their general geographic location is approximately 62.047836° north latitude -145.43193° east longitude, township 3 north, range 13 east, section 8, Copper River Principal Meridian.

Tazlina is located 5 road miles southeast of Glennallen on the edge of the Wrangel- St. Elias National Park and Preserve.

POPULATION

According to the 2020 census data, the population of Tazlina is 244 people.

CRITICAL FACILITIES (INFRASTRUCTURE)

There are a total number of 192 homes in the Tazlina area, 91 are occupied and 101 are vacant

or uninhabitable homes. The Tazlina Village Council is located near the Tazlina River at mile 110.5 Richardson Hwy. The Village Council includes village office buildings, a community hall and playground.

Other community buildings in Tazlina include the Glenn-Rich VFD building, Copper River Native Association headquarters that includes a medical clinic, behavior health, dental facility, family support services, pharmacy, offices and the local food bank as well as other community support services. The Copper River Basin Housing Authority is also located in the Tazlina planning area and operates a coin operated community well. The State of Alaska Department of Transportation (DOT) and Department of Natural Resource Division of Forestry & Fire Protection (DOF) are also included in this planning area. There is a commercial concrete plant, Copper Basin Sanitation which offers trash and port-a-potty services for the entire Copper River Basin, as well as seasonally inhabited structures and businesses that consists of bed-and-breakfast establishments, campgrounds, eateries, Wrangell - St. Elias National Park and Preserve National Park Service headquarters and Ahtna Inc. Cultural Center.

Tazlina has limited infrastructure. The planning area of Tazlina receives infrastructure support from Glennallen where there is a power plant, telephone company and bulk fuel companies. Industry sources for the Tazlina planning area include tourism, jobs supplied by the Tazlina Village Council, State of Alaska DOT and DOF, Tazlina River Trading Post, and Copper Basin Sanitation. There is no transfer station or dump in this area. There is one concrete plant, and multiple gravel pits that are used for State or private projects.

SEASONAL FACTORS

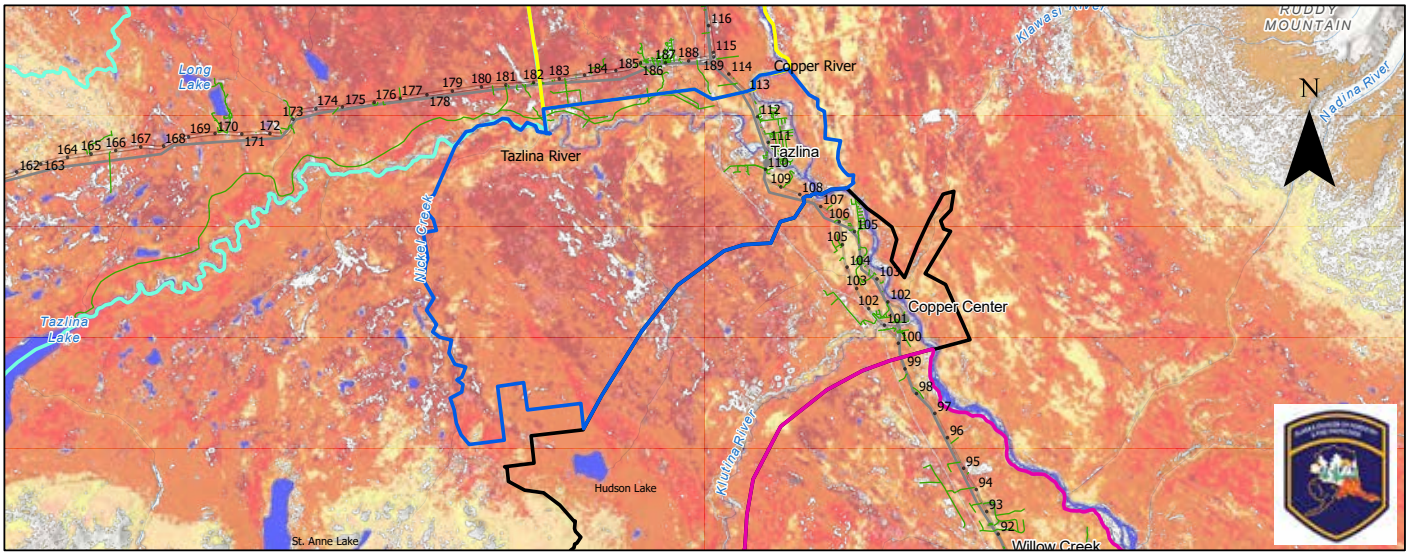
Spring pre-green up grass poses wildland fire threat, commonly found around structures and previously cleared areas. Summer thunderstorms bring frequent lightning from mid-June to mid-August and the potential of lightning caused fires. During the summer, subsistence fishwheels and dip netting for salmon in the nearby Copper River brings large numbers of Alaskans from all over the state traveling through the Tazlina area.

WILDLAND FIRE HISTORY

Large fire history in the surrounding area:

- 2019 lightning caused Dale Fire burned 1.5 acres north of St. Anne Lake just outside the Tazlina planning area.
- 2019 lightning caused Tokiana Creek Fire which burned over 820 acres east of Tazlina Lake, west of the Tazlina planning area.
- 2019 lightning caused Tokiana 2 Fire burned over 13,900 acres east of Tazlina Lake, west of the Tazlina planning area.
- 2019 lightning caused Tokiana 3 Fire burned over 4 acres east of Tazlina Lake, west of the Tazlina planning area.
- 2019 lightning caused Tokiana 4 Fire burned over 74 acres east of Tazlina Lake, west of the Tazlina planning area.
- 1991 the Tazlina Lake Fire burned over 6,701 acres west of Tazlina Lake and the Tazlina planning area.
- From 1940 to the present, numerous human caused fires can be found in the Alaska fire history location database within Tazlina's CWPP planning area. These wildland urban interface (WUI) fires were smaller in size; however, if they were not contained while small, they would have led to a catastrophic outcome.

Community Risk Assessment



Tazlina Vegetation Type Risk Map

CWPP Planning Area

- Tazlina
- Copper Center Area
- Glennallen
- Kenny Lake
- Lake Louise
- Milepost
- Local_Roads

LANDFIRE EVT 2016

- Alaskan Pacific Wet Low Shrubland & Floodplain Wetland
- Alaskan Pacific-Aleutian Alder-Salmonberry-Copperbush Shrubland
- North American Arctic-Subarctic Tussock Tundra
- Western North American Boreal Alpine Dwarf-shrubland
- Western North American Boreal Alpine Mesic Herbaceous Meadow
- Western North American Boreal Black Spruce Bog and Dwarf-Tree Peatland
- Western North American Boreal Black Spruce-Tamarack Fen
- Western North American Boreal Dry Aspen-Steppe Bluff
- Western North American Boreal Dry Grassland
- Western North American Boreal Freshwater Emergent Marsh
- Western North American Boreal Mesic Birch-Aspen Forest
- Western North American Boreal Mesic White Spruce Forest
- Western North American Boreal Mesic-Wet Black Spruce Forest and Woodland
- Western North American Boreal Riparian Stringer Conifer Forest
- Western North American Boreal Shrub Swamp
- Western North American Boreal Spruce-Lichen Woodland
- Western North American Boreal Treeline White Spruce Woodland
- Western North American Boreal Wet Black Spruce-Tussock Woodland
- Western North American Boreal Wet Meadow
- Western North American Boreal Treeline Hardwood-White Spruce Woodland
- Western North American Boreal Treeline White Spruce-Hardwood Woodland
- Western North American Boreal Mesic Hardwood-White Spruce Forest
- Western North American Boreal Mesic White Spruce-Hardwood Forest
- Alaska Sub-boreal White-Lutz Spruce-Hardwood Forest and Woodland
- Western North American Boreal Mesic-Wet Black Spruce-Hardwood Forest and Woodland
- Western North American Boreal Lowland Large River Floodplain Shrubland (Conifer Forest)
- Western North American Boreal Herbaceous Floodplain
- Recently Burned-Tree Cover
- Open Water
- Developed-Open Space
- Agriculture-Cultivated Crops and Irrigated Agriculture

RISK/HAZARD ANALYSIS, AVAILABLE FUELS

The Copper River Basin is classified as Fire Regime Group IV, which means a stand replacement severity fire is possible every 35-100+ years.

The image above shows vegetative fuels with the color corresponding to their flammability, or fire danger in prime fire weather conditions. Fuels shown in shades of red constitute coniferous needle bearing trees, primarily black or white spruce, which are highly flammable in high fire danger conditions. Orange tone vegetative fuels consist of a more mosaic mix of spruce and hardwoods, or more open canopy structure. While still highly flammable, these vegetative fuel types constitute less of a threat than a continuous closed canopy forest. Yellow tone vegetative fuels display hardwood, willow and alder type shrubs and grassland areas, while the green and blue tones show the subalpine brush component found near and above the tree line at higher elevations. In the right conditions, these areas can still burn and show resistance to control.

COMMUNITY RISK ASSESSMENT

Rating Elements

1. **RISK/HAZARD ANALYSIS** of available fuels inside community (inside community to 1 mile)
2. **RISK/HAZARD ANALYSIS** of available fuels outside community (1–10 miles)
3. **BARRIERS,** natural and man-made
4. **FIRE PROTECTION RESOURCE AVAILABILITY**
5. **COMMUNITY FIREWISE RATING**
6. **OVERALL COMMUNITY RATING**

1. INSIDE COMMUNITY:

The rating area includes lands within one mile of the community in all directions. The rating is based on history/likelihood of fire in the community and the availability of hazard fuels.

Rating: High

Based on potential ignition sources and surrounding fuel types, the risk of fire spreading from within the community is high. Fires that start within the community are primarily human-caused and could be extinguished by community members if they have the necessary equipment and training. The times of highest concern are spring when pre-green up conditions exist, and tall, thick, and often matted grass is prevalent around many structures. Additionally, within the community, there are added hazards like tall dry grass during pre-green up, debris, abandoned inoperable vehicles near residences, and challenges to emergency responders increasing the risk and hazards of wildland fire potential and emergency response. Many residents and businesses use burn barrels to dispose of organic waste. This area sees a large influx of recreational users in the spring, summer, and fall (tourists traveling to the Wrangell - St. Elias National Park and Preserve, salmon fishermen, rafters, and hunters). Camping in non-designated spots is very common, and these users pose a very high risk of leaving campfires unattended or not fully extinguishing their fire. Wildland fuels within one mile of Tazlina to the north, west, and south consist primarily of spruce and spruce-mixed hardwood forest with pockets of beetle-killed trees.

2. OUTSIDE COMMUNITY:

The rating area is from 1–10 miles outside the community and is based on the history/likelihood of fire in the area and the availability of hazard fuels.

Rating: High

The potential for large fires to impact Tazlina is high. The prevalence and high concentrations of spruce (black spruce, white spruce, spruce/hardwood mix), insect (beetle-kill), and disease in mixed boreal forest and grass (seasonal cured tall standing or matted), are very receptive to wildland fire in high fire danger conditions. In addition to the influx of recreational users in the spring, summer, and fall, thunderstorms and associated lightning strikes are a frequent cause for wildland fire concern during the summer.

3. BARRIERS:

This includes water, natural and human-made features

Rating: Moderate

Tazlina has significant wildland fire protection from the Copper River spanning the eastern side of its Wildland Urban Interface. The Tazlina River also intersects the Wildland Urban Interface from west to east, providing additional protection to certain parts of the community. However, the area faces significant risk due to the abundance of tall, dry grasses before the green-up period, as well as a mix of spruce and hardwoods between the waterways and the community. Given that Tazlina spans both sides of the Tazlina River, pre-green up grasses, and the abundance of mixed spruce and hardwoods the risk/hazard analysis category is high.

4. FIRE PROTECTION RESOURCE AVAILABILITY:

Includes local and agency resources

Rating: Moderate

A rating of moderate for resource availability criteria states that adequate initial attack resources are more than 30–75 minutes away and adequate extended attack resources are potentially 8–12 hours away. The Division of Forestry & Fire Protection (DOF) has statutory authority to protect forested lands from wildland fire on state, private, and borough lands. DOF has a contractual agreement with the BLM Alaska Fire Service to provide protection of federal jurisdiction and native lands. Valdez-Copper River Area (DOF) response times are 20+ minutes by road, depending on fire engine locations, and approximately 10 minutes by helicopter. Other air resources are 1 hour+ out, and extended attack resources could be as long as 12 hours away. During the peak fire season, a helitak crew and helicopter capable of bucket drops is available locally. Smokejumpers are also available from Fairbanks with a response time of about 90 minutes. Crews could also be available from Palmer and Fairbanks with a minimum response time of 6–12 hours and up to 48 hours, depending on availability and other fire activity across the state. The Glenn-Rich Volunteer Fire Department (VFD) response area is from Mile 115 to Mile 138 of the Glenn Highway and Mile Marker 92 to Mile 124 of the Richarson Highway. The Glenn-Rich VFD is currently registered with the State Fire Marshal's Office and receives dispatch notifications from Matcom 911. Kenny Lake Volunteer Fire Department and Gakona Volunteer Fire Department offer mutual aid to the Tazlina area in the event of a fire; however, they have longer response times.

5. COMMUNITY FIREWISE RATING:

Includes landscaping, construction, water supply and access

Rating: High

LANDSCAPING: Less than 35% of homes and community buildings have a clearing of flammable vegetation at least 30 feet around the structure or have lawns that are mowed and watered regularly. Ladder fuels can be found throughout the community and in-between structures with pockets of trees lacking crown spacing. Tall and matted uncut grass can be found along road corridors and around structures, along with unoccupied and uninhabitable structures with debris, trash, and inoperable vehicles surrounding them.

CONSTRUCTION: Less than 35% of homes are made of fire-resistant or non-combustible construction materials. Roofing materials range from metal to wood shake roofs. Many structures do not have skirting around the bottom or other general Firewise and Home Hardening recommendations, such as covering vents and openings with wire mesh, cleaning organic debris off roofs and other surfaces that trap leaves and needles to prevent ember entrapment and ignition.

WATER SUPPLY: Less than 35% of homesites and community buildings have a reliable water source. Many homes do not have a reliable water source or the means to protect their property with a water source in the event of a wildland fire.

ACCESS: The only road access route that is at least 2 lanes wide and clearly marked is the Richardson Hwy. Ample turnaround space for vehicles/fire equipment exists in less than 35% of homes and community buildings. Due to persistent landslides within the Copper Basin, all roads that exist along bluffs and rivers are susceptible to erosion. If there is not ongoing construction or road closures, there exists more than one escape route and safety zones.

Escape Routes:

1. Richardson Highway to the north and south
2. Glenn Highway (located in the Glennallen planning area) to the west

Safety Zones:

1. Glennallen K-12 School — accessed by Glenn Highway
2. Native Village of Tazlina Hall located at mile 110.5 Richardson Highway
3. Ball field clearing at the end of Old School Road located at mile 110.9 Richarson Highway
4. Coppervill Road gravel pit located by Glenn Rich VFD and CRNA building at mile 111.7 Richardson Highway

6. OVERALL COMMUNITY RATING:

OVERALL RATING CHART SUMMARY

1. **RISK/HAZARD ANALYSIS** of available fuels inside community to 1 mi	HIGH
2. **RISK/HAZARD ANALYSIS** (available fuels outside community 1–10 mi)	HIGH
3. **BARRIERS**	MODERATE
4. **FIRE PROTECTION RESOURCE AVAILABILITY**	MODERATE
5. **COMMUNITY FIREWISE RATING**	HIGH

The overall assessment, based off the findings, shows the threat of danger from wildland fire for the community of Tazlina is moderate to high.

Wildland fire risk to the Tazlina community using Wildfirerisk.org is very high. Tazlina is higher than 96% of communities in the United States. Risk is determined by the Risk to Homes national percentile rank of the selected community, county, tribal area or state. Low is less than 40th percentile; medium is 40th–70th percentile; high is 70th –90th percentile; very high is equal to or greater than 90th percentile. More information regarding this rating can be found www.wildfirerisk.org.

Action Plan

The Tazlina Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) aims to address the wildland fire risks in the Tazlina area, located in the Copper River Basin in Southcentral Alaska. This region is prone to wildland fires due to its boreal forest ecosystem, which requires fire to regenerate and maintain ecological balance. However, wildland fires pose significant threats to the community, its infrastructure, and areas of cultural significance. Frequent lightning strikes and human activities are the major causes of wildland fires in the area.

This plan assesses various risk factors including the types of vegetation that can fuel fires, such as black and white spruce, mixed hardwood forests, and grass and shrublands. These fuels are highly flammable and can lead to high-intensity fires. Within the community, there are additional hazards like tall, dry grass, inadequate road signage, debris, and hazardous materials such as old inoperable vehicles near homes, which increase the risk of fire spreading and increase risk to responding resources. Outside the community, similar vegetative fuels extend the risk zone up to 10 miles away.

Natural and man-made barriers include the Richardson Highway, Copper and Tazlina Rivers which all provide some protection. However, there are significant gaps, notably to the homes west of the Richardson Highway and north of the Tazlina River. The local volunteer fire department (VFD) faces challenges due to limited resources and inadequate training and equipment. Incoming emergency resources experience long response times.

By addressing these concerns and implementing appropriate measures, this plan aims to reduce the wildland fire risk to Tazlina, making it safer for residents and preserving its natural and cultural resources.

PRIORITIZED ASSESSMENT FINDINGS

1. Homes and businesses not being Firewised
2. Dry grasses especially around structures
3. Unsafe burning practices
4. Not having clear road signs
5. VFD training and equipment needs
6. Lack of adequate communications
7. Driveways inaccessible to emergency vehicles
8. Community woody mass disposal site
9. Support and training for Native Village of Tazlina's Hazardous Fuels Crew removal program
10. Address hazardous fuel loading at the end of Old School Road, including access to fish camp locations
11. Re-treat fuel reduction projects
12. Fire safety signage at public use areas and fish camp accesses
13. Public wildland fire education
14. Update evacuation plan
15. Protection of native heritage sites
16. Firewise new development within Tazlina subdivision
17. Standing dead timber mitigation
18. Biomass Viability
19. Lack of subsurface water sources or access for VFDs

TASKS AND MATRIX OF MITIGATION MEASURES

The following table is a task matrix and identifies solutions for each prioritized assessment finding listed in the previous section. Ensuring proper risk mitigation and potential entities that may address these tasks.

ASSESSMENT FINDING	ASSOCIATED TASK	RESPONSIBLE ENTITIES
Homes and businesses need to be Firewised (Implementation)	1. Educate homeowners on Firewise and home hardening principles. 2. VFD participation on home/ structure assessments and creation of defensible space. 3. Apply for a Firewise grant program that will establish a cost share program for homeowners. 4. Identify/designate an area and/or equipment for community members to utilize to dispose of woody mass byproduct. 5. Apply for grant program and funding for a community cleanup project for removal of hazardous materials such as but not limited to inoperable vehicles, tires, and other hazards. 6. Complete a hazardous materials cleanup project on homes/structures within the planning area. 7. Adopt State of Alaska Stewardship Program model for Firewise home assessments.	Bureau of Indian Affairs Copper River Basin Regional Housing Authority Glenn-Rich Volunteer Fire Department Homeowners Native Village of Tazlina State of Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation State of Alaska Division of Forestry & Fire Protection
Dry grasses especially around structures during pre-green up (Implementation)	1. Educate home and business owners on dangers of pre-green up dry grass and removal actions. 2. Implement mitigation program through grant funding.	Copper River Basin Regional Housing Authority Homeowners State of Alaska Division of Forestry & Fire Protection
Unsafe burning practices (Implementation)	1. Implement wildland fire and debris burning safety programs into the community. 2. Hold community fire safety events and education opportunities. 3. Post signage and information around community, campgrounds and fishwheel sites.	Glenn-Rich Volunteer Fire Department Native Village of Tazlina State of Alaska Division of Forestry & Fire Protection
Community roads do not have clear road signs (Implementation)	1. Update maps. 2. Clear brush around existing road signs. 3. Work with DOT to install new road signs.	Local Emergency Planning Committee Native Village of Tazlina State of Alaska Department of Transportation State of Alaska Division of Forestry & Fire Protection
VFD training and equipment needs (Implementation)	1. Continue wildland fire response program with training, equipment, and coordination with the State of Alaska Copper River DOF office. 2. Strengthen local prevention programs in coordination with State of Alaska Copper River DOF office.	Glenn-Rich Volunteer Fire Department State of Alaska Division of Forestry & Fire Protection

ASSESSMENT FINDING	ASSOCIATED TASK	RESPONSIBLE ENTITIES
Lack of adequate communications. (Implementation)	1. Coordinate use with multiple agencies including EMS and VFD. 2. VFD radios need to be updated.	State of Alaska Division of Forestry & Fire Protection
Driveways inaccessible to emergency vehicles/address ingress and egress concerns (Implementation)	1. Initiate contact with AK DOT and Native entities to have an assessment done and recommendations to widen main roads. 2. Apply for grants to assist homeowners in widening existing roads and driveways to support large firefighting apparatus to include brush clearing and/or widening roads.	Bureau of Indian Affairs Native Village of Tazlina State of Alaska Division of Forestry & Fire Protection State of Alaska Department of Transportation
Community woody mass disposal site (Implementation)	1. Identify/designate an area for the community members to dispose of woody mass byproduct.	Native Village of Tazlina State of Alaska Division of Forestry & Fire Protection
Support and training for Native Village of Tazlina's hazardous fuel crews removal program (Implementation)	1. Coordinate with Native Village of Tazlina's fuels crew, VFDs and DOF for hazardous fuels removal training. 2. Work with Tazlina fuels crew to prioritize community projects.	Ahtna Inc. Bureau of Indian Affairs Native Village of Tazlina State of Alaska Division of Forestry & Fire Protection
Address hazardous fuel loading on Old School Road (Implementation)	1. Coordinate with DNR to assess the fuel loading on Old School Road, making recommendations to thin brush and remove hazardous trees. 2. Create access agreement with DOF. 3. Map existing trails.	Native Village of Tazlina State of Alaska Division of Forestry & Fire Protection
Re-treat and planning for new fuel reduction projects (Implementation)	1. Reveiw past fuel reduction projects. 2. Priortize what projects need to be retreated in order of urgency. 3. Apply for funding to plan the re-treatment project and/or new development.	Ahtna Inc. Bureau of Indian Affairs Native Village of Tazlina State of Alaska Division of Forestry & Fire Protection
Fire safety signage at public use areas (Implementation)	1. Identify locations of high public use. 2. Obtain signage pertaining to fire safety and other responsible use of natural resources.	State of Alaska Division of Forestry & Fire Protection
Public wildland fire education (Implementation) (Planning)	1. Promote teaching general wildland fire knowledge to the community with emphasis on safe burning practices and creating defensible space through Firewise and Home Hardening programs. 2. Continue wildland fire education outreach in schools.	Bureau of Indian Affairs Glenn-Rich Volunteer Fire Department Native Village of Tazlina State of Alaska Division of Forestry & Fire Protection

ASSESSMENT FINDING	ASSOCIATED TASK	RESPONSIBLE ENTITIES
Update evacuation plan (Planning)	1. Review and modernize existing community emergency plan. 2. Include updated and centralized community contact list. 3. Include maps with road signage and house identifiers (in conjunction with community Firewise mapping). 4. Adopt Alaska Ready, Set, Go standards. 5. Work with State of Alaska Emergency Coordination Center and Copper Valley Telephone to set up an emergency alert system.	Copper Valley Telephone Local Emergency Planning Committee Native Village of Tazlina State of Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management State of Alaska Division of Forestry & Fire Protection
Protection of Native heritage sites (Implementation)	1. Native entities internally identify heritage sites to be protected. 2. Implement appropriate measures and desired fire suppression tactics for protecting these areas. 3. Insure they are denoted as "other land" contact land manager on Know Sites Database.	Ahtna Inc. Bureau of Indian Affairs Bureau of Land Management Native Village of Tazlina State of Alaska Division of Forestry & Fire Protection
Firewise new development within Tazlina subdivision (Owned by Ahtna, operated by Native Village of Tazlina) (Implementation) (Planning)	1. Educate homeowners / building owners on Firewise and home hardening principles. 2. VFD participation on home / structure assessments and creation of defensible space. 3. Apply for a Firewise grant program that will establish a cost share program for homeowners. 4. Identify/designate an area for the community members to dispose of woody mass byproduct.	Copper River Basin Regional Housing Authority Native Village of Tazlina State of Alaska Division of Forestry & Fire Protection
Standing dead timber mitigation (Implementation)	1. Determine areas in which beetle-kill and other dead-standing timber can be accessed. 2. Explore the viability of opening or gaining access to these areas for the purpose of community/private firewood or other viable biomass opportunities. 3. Public outreach to make these areas known.	Ahtna Inc. Alyeska Pipeline State of Alaska Division of Forestry & Fire Protection
Biomass Viability (Implementation)	1. Continually reevaluate the viability of biomass solutions.	Copper River Development Association Native Village of Tazlina State of Alaska Division of Forestry & Fire Protection
Lack of subsurface water source (Implementation)	1. Identify area for community well to be drilled. 2. Apply for a grant to fund the project.	Copper River Development Association

Summary, Review, and Updating Process

The community of Tazlina has a high–moderate risk of wildland fire potential and impact. Due to the type of fuels both inside and outside of the community, and the overall community Firewise rating to include safety zones and escape routes, are all given the score of high wildland fire potential. Combined with the moderate rating for natural and man-made barriers for fire protection resource availability, Tazlina's overall assessment findings show a high–moderate threat of danger from wildland fire.

Wildfirerisk.org. outlines Tazlina's wildland fire risk of 96% higher than other communities throughout the United States. (July 2024)

Through collaboration on this CWPP, community members and organizations, Native entities, and the Glenn-Rich VFD will take first steps to mitigate the potential negative impacts from wildland fire. The community along with its entities are encouraged to continue fuels mitigation, education, and implementation efforts that are consistent with the Alaska Firewise program.

This is a living document, in-which changes can be discussed and made at any time. Review and updates to this CWPP is recommended to take place every three (3) years, not to extend past five (5) years. The Community Risk Assessment and Action Plan should be reviewed and updated by subject matter experts, and information solicited via public meetings with community members and landowners.

The following table represents the timeline that the Tazlina CWPP needs to be reviewed, updated and when it expires.

REVIEW: 3 YEARS	UPDATE: 5 YEARS	EXPIRE: 10 YEARS
December 1, 2028	December 1, 2030	December 1, 2035

Signature Page

This plan has been reviewed and approved by the following:

Signed by:
X Norm McDonald – State of Alaska Forestry & Fire Protection, Deputy Director (Fire) Date
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State of Alaska Forestry & Fire Protection, Deputy Director (Fire)

JOSHUA SCOTT Digitally signed by JOSHUA SCOTT
Date: 2026.01.09 13:07:33 -09'00'
X Date

Wrangell - St. Elias National Park and Preserve

X William M. Dunk Jr. Digitally signed by WILLIAM DUNK
Date: 2026.01.14 13:34:09 -09'00' Date

Bureau of Land Management

X JOLENE JOHN Digitally signed by JOLENE JOHN
Date: 2026.01.16 11:49:44 -09'00' Date

Bureau of Indian Affairs

X Date

Ahtna Inc.

X Marcie Simeon Date Feb 11, 2026

Tazlina Village Council

Signed by:
X Scott Feicht – Fire Chief – GRFR Date
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VFD Community Representative

Appendix A

Alaska Fire Management Planning References

The Tazlina Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) is a collaborative effort created in response to the 2003 Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA) which directs communities at risk for wildland fire to develop a risk assessment and mitigation plan. [1] The HFRA includes the following guidance:

> The minimum requirements for a CWPP as described in the HFRA are: (1) Collaboration: A CWPP must be collaboratively developed by local and state government representatives, in consultation with federal agencies and other interested parties. (2) Prioritized Fuel Reduction: A CWPP must identify and prioritize areas for hazardous fuel reduction treatments and recommend the types and methods of treatment that will protect one or more at-risk communities and essential infrastructure. (3) Treatment of Structural Ignitability: A CWPP must recommend measures that homeowners and communities can take to reduce the ignitability of structures throughout the area addressed by the plan. [2]

Additionally, the Alaska Interagency Fire Management Plan, of which the State of Alaska Division of Forestry & Fire Protection is a signatory, recognizes that each of the land-managing Federal and State agencies and ANCSA corporations in Alaska have their own missions, goals, and objectives related to their lands and that to effectively prioritize and manage Alaska wildland fires there is a need to consider the full spectrum of initial responses to wildland fire; from suppression actions designed to contain and control wildland fire growth, to periodic surveillance of wildland fires that are allowed to spread naturally across the landscape. To accomplish this, jurisdictional organizations and protecting agencies have collaboratively assigned one of four wildland fire management options (Critical, Full, Modified, and Limited) to nearly all lands in Alaska. Pre-identified Wildland Fire Management Options allow fire managers to:

- *Quickly prioritize areas for protection actions and the allocation of available initial attack firefighting resources to achieve protection objectives.*
- *Optimize the ability to achieve land use and resource management objectives and integrate fire management, mission objectives, land use, and natural resource goals.*
- *Reinforce the premise that the cost of suppression efforts should be commensurate with the economic, social, and resource values identified for protection.*[3]

Wildland fire management in Alaska is a joint effort among federal, state, local, and tribal governments, native organizations, local fire departments, communities, and landowners. The land management agencies, also known as jurisdictional agencies, have the overall land and resource management responsibilities as provided by federal, state, or local law. The Alaska Master Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement improves Alaskan fire management agencies' efficiency in responding to wildland fire by facilitating the coordination and exchange of

[1] WADNR. (2023, April 25). *Community Wildfire Protection Plan Guidance CWPP ...*Wildfire Preparedness. https://www.dnr.wa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/rp_cwpp_guidance_04102023.pdf.pdf
[2] *H.R.1904 - Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003*. (2003, December 3). CONGRESS.GOV. Retrieved October 30, 2024, from https://www.congress.gov/bill/108th-congress/house-bill/1904
[3] *ALASKA INTERAGENCY WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN*. (2024). Alaska Interagency Coordination Center. Retrieved October 30, 2024, from https://fire.ak.blm.gov/content/aicc/Alaska%20Statewide%20Master%20Agreement/3.%20Alaska%20Interagency%20Wildland%20Fire%20Managment%20Plan%20(AIWFMP)/Alaska%20Interagency%20Wildland%20Fire%20Management%20Plan.pdf

personnel, equipment, supplies, services, and funds while sustaining activities such as prevention, preparedness, communication and education, fuels treatment and hazard mitigation, fire planning, response strategies, tactics and alternatives, suppression, and post-fire rehabilitation and restoration.[4]

Acknowledging increased complexity in fire management practices, the State of Alaska State Hazard Mitigation Plan (SHMP) notes that future conditions for wildland fire hazards, including climate change, highlight an intensified pattern of wildland fire that is emerging in Alaska as rapidly increasing temperatures and longer growing seasons alter the state's environment. Both tundra and boreal forest regions are seeing larger and more frequent wildland fires. The impacts of these fires are felt across the state. In response to changing wildland fire patterns, Alaska's fire management agencies are adapting quickly. The use of remote sensing tools, such as data from satellites, and science-based decision making have been a critical component in responding to intensified wildland fire seasons. [5]

Additionally, the Statewide Operating Plan (SOP) is applicable to all signatory parties to the Alaska Master Agreement (AMA). Its purpose is to address statewide issues affecting cooperation, interagency working relationships and protocols, financial arrangements, sharing of resources, and joint activities/projects.[6]

Jurisdictional agencies (as identified in the Alaska Master Agreement) are responsible for all planning documents (e.g., land use plans, resource management plans, fire management plans, and decision support documents) for a unit’s wildland fire and fuels management program.[7]

Protecting agencies (as identified in the Alaska Master Agreement) are responsible for implementing the actions documented and directed by the appropriate planning and decision support documents for initial and extended attack on wildland fire incidents. They provide supervision and support including operational oversight, direction, and logistical support to incident management teams (IMTs). [8]

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[4] *ALASKA MASTER COOPERATIVE WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT AND STAFFORD ACT RESPONSE AGREEMENT: 2024 ALASKA STATEWIDE OPERATING PLAN.* (2020, August 6). Alaska Interagency Coordination Center. Retrieved October 30, 2024, from https://fire.ak.blm.gov/content/aicc/Alaska%20Statewide%20Master%20Agreement/2.%20Alaska%20Statewide%20Operating%20Plan/Alaska%20Statewide%20Operating%20Plan.pdf

[5] SOA. (2023). State of Alaska State Hazard Mitigation Plan. Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management Hazard Mitigation Section. https://ready.alaska.gov/Documents/Mitigation/SHMP/2023 State of Alaska Hazard Mitigation Plan.pdf

[6] *ALASKA MASTER COOPERATIVE WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT AND STAFFORD ACT RESPONSE AGREEMENT: 2024 ALASKA STATEWIDE OPERATING PLAN.* (2020, August 6). Alaska Interagency Coordination Center. Retrieved October 30, 2024, from https://fire.ak.blm.gov/content/aicc/Alaska%20Statewide%20Master%20Agreement/2.%20Alaska%20Statewide%20Operating%20Plan/Alaska%20Statewide%20Operating%20Plan.pdf

[7] *ALASKA MASTER COOPERATIVE WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT AND STAFFORD ACT RESPONSE AGREEMENT: 2024 ALASKA STATEWIDE OPERATING PLAN.* (2020, August 6). Alaska Interagency Coordination Center. Retrieved October 30, 2024, from https://fire.ak.blm.gov/content/aicc/Alaska%20Statewide%20Master%20Agreement/2.%20Alaska%20Statewide%20Operating%20Plan/Alaska%20Statewide%20Operating%20Plan.pdf

[8] *ALASKA MASTER COOPERATIVE WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT AND STAFFORD ACT RESPONSE AGREEMENT: 2024 ALASKA STATEWIDE OPERATING PLAN.* (2020, August 6). Alaska Interagency Coordination Center. Retrieved October 30, 2024, from https://fire.ak.blm.gov/content/aicc/Alaska%20Statewide%20Master%20Agreement/2.%20Alaska%20Statewide%20Operating%20Plan/Alaska%20Statewide%20Operating%20Plan.pdf

The State of Alaska Forest Action Plan (FAP) seeks to prioritize areas where forests matter most to Alaska's people—forest lands and wildland urban interface areas that have been identified through the robust Alaska Interagency Wildland Fire Management Plan as having resources requiring fire protection; private forest lands including Alaska Native corporation lands; and state forests and state land classified for forestry. This plan also highlights the following key goals relevant to fire management on State of Alaska lands:

1. *Cultivate fire adapted communities*
2. *Manage fuels to reduce risk to communities & to benefit forest ecosystems.* [9]

Similarly, the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy Addendum Update (Addendum Update) identifies new drivers impacting the wildland fire management system. As Federal agencies, states, tribes, and the private sector all ramp up work together to meet the challenge of the wildland fire crisis, stakeholders are challenged to reach beyond individual, organizational, and historical silos to collectively define and understand their risk; set landscape-level and community-wide priorities; share and co-manage risk across boundaries and jurisdictions; accept some short-term risk for long-term benefit; and collectively invest in outcome-based approaches and activities, rather than outputs. The Addendum Update elevates critical issues like climate change and environmental justice and defines key challenges that are not limited to one agency or organization, provides new guidance for stakeholders addressing today's wildland fire challenges and aims to "safely and effectively extinguish fire, when needed; use fire where allowable; manage natural resources; and collectively, learn to live with wildland fire." The updated National Cohesive Strategy goals include:

1. *Resilient Landscapes – Landscapes, regardless of jurisdictional boundaries are resilient to fire, insect, disease, invasive species and climate change disturbances, in accordance with management objectives.*
2. *Fire Adapted Communities – Human populations and infrastructure are as prepared as possible to receive, respond to, and recover from wildland fire.*
3. *Safe, Effective, Risk-based Wildland fire Response – All jurisdictions participate in making and implementing safe, effective, efficient risk-based wildland fire management decisions.* [10]

Ultimately, the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) process aligns with the goals outlined by the National Cohesive Strategy and the State of Alaska Forest Action Plan, and offers prescriptive recommendations based on feedback gathered at the community level, while also referencing Fire Management Response Guidance from the AIWFMP, the Stafford Act and the SHMP. This collaborative planning process assists

[9] *2020 Forest Action Plan*. (2020, December 31). Alaska Natural Resources Division of Forestry & Fire Protection. https://forestry.alaska.gov/Assets/pdfs/forestactionplan/FINAL2020AlaskaForestActionPlan.pdf
[10] Wildland Fire Leadership Council. (2023). *National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy Addendum Update*. https://www.forestsandrangelands.gov/documents/strategy/natl-cohesive-wildland-fire-mgmt-strategy-addendum-update-2023.pdf

communities in developing an appropriate and desired wildland fire protection plan to guide future mitigation efforts. Completion of this CWPP involved the following steps:

1) *Identify stakeholders, land management agencies, and interested parties.*
2) *Establish a community planning area.*
3) *Develop a community risk assessment.*
4) *Ongoing opportunities for community input through surveys, public meetings, and the creation of a dedicated website.*
5) *Address priorities through stakeholder meetings and public input.*
6) *Development of an action plan and task-matrix.*
7) *Finalization of the plan with a total of three public community meetings throughout the process.*

Sources

2020 Forest Action Plan. (2020, December 31). Alaska Natural Resources Division of Forestry & Fire Protection. https://forestry.alaska.gov/Assets/pdfs/forestactionplan/FINAL2020AlaskaForestActionPlan.pdf

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Appendix B

Assessment of Hazard, Barriers, and Defensible Space Rating Criteria — Community Risk Assessment

Rating Elements

1) Risk/Hazard Analysis of available fuels inside community (inside community to 1 mile)
2) Risk/Hazard Analysis of available fuels outside community (1-10miles)
3) Barriers
4) Fire Protection Resource Availability
5) Community Firewise Rating
6) Overall Community Rating
7) Wildfire Risk to Communities (wildfirerisk.org) Rating Summary

Risk/Hazard Analysis, Available Fuels

The Copper River Basin is classified as Fire Regine Group IV, which means a stand replacement severity fire is possible every 35-100+ years.

1. **Inside Community**: The rating area includes lands within one mile of the community in all directions. The rating is based on history/likelihood of fire in the community and the availability of hazard fuels.

RISK/HAZARD ANALYSIS AVAILABLE FUELS CHART 1

FUELS (predicted fire behavior based on historic summertime weather with hot, dry conditions)	Alaska Fire Return Interval: High 0-99 years	Where Found:
Black Spruce Boreal Forest (CFFDRS=C2) *rate of spread: high intensity: high spotting potential: high*	HIGH	
Black Spruce Lichen Woodland (CFFDRS=C1) *rate of spread: moderate intensity: moderate spotting potential: high*	HIGH	
Grass (cured tall standing or matted; CFFDRS = O1a/O1b) *rate of spread: high intensity: moderate: spotting potential: low*	HIGH	
Mixed Boreal Forest (may include white or black spruce, aspen and/or birch; CFFDRS=M1) *rate of spread:* moderate intensity: moderate spotting potential: moderate	MODERATE	
Hardwood Forest (includes aspen & birch; CFFDRS use D1 or M1, M2) *rate of spread: low intensity: low spotting potential: low*	MODERATE	
Deciduous Brush (includes willow & alder) *rate of spread: low intensity: low spotting potential: low*	LOW	
Insect and Disease in Mixed Boreal Forest (may include white or black spruce, aspen and/or birch) *rate of spread: moderate intensity: High spotting potential: High*	MODERATE	

Narrative description fuels within one mile of community.

2. **Outside Community**: The rating area is from 1-10 miles outside the community and is based on the history/likelihood of fire in the area and the availability of hazard fuels.

RISK/HAZARD ANALYSIS AVAILABLE FUELS CHART 2

FUELS (predicted fire behavior based on historic summertime weather with hot, dry conditions)	Alaska Fire Return Interval: High 0-99 years	Where Found:
Black Spruce Boreal Forest (CFFDRS=C2) *rate of spread: high intensity: high spotting potential: high*	HIGH	
Black Spruce Lichen Woodland (CFFDRS=C1) *rate of spread: moderate intensity: moderate spotting potential: high*	HIGH	
Grass (cured tall standing or matted; CFFDRS = O1a/O1b) *rate of spread: high intensity: moderate: spotting potential: low*	HIGH	
Mixed Boreal Forest (may include white or black spruce, aspen and/or birch; CFFDRS=M1) *rate of spread:* moderate intensity: moderate spotting potential: moderate	MODERATE	
Hardwood Forest (includes aspen & birch; CFFDRS use D1 or M1, M2) *rate of spread: low intensity: low spotting potential: low*	MODERATE	
Deciduous Brush (includes willow & alder) *rate of spread: low intensity: low spotting potential: low*	LOW	
Insect and Disease in Mixed Boreal Forest (may include white or black spruce, aspen and/or birch) *rate of spread: moderate intensity: High spotting potential: High*	MODERATE	

Narrative description fuels 1-10 miles from community.

3. Barriers

Standards for rating natural and constructed (human-made) barriers:

Low Fire Danger: The community has a natural or constructed barriers that provide thorough protection from fuels less than 1 mile away in at least 3 cardinal directions. An example of this would be a small community sandwiched between a major river and a runway, or a community on an island

Moderate Fire Danger: The community has natural or constructed barriers that provide thorough protection from fuels less than 1 mile away in at least two cardinal directions. Communities may have multiple barriers affecting a rating. Examples are airstrips separating a community from significant outside fuels, communities set amidst less flammable vegetation types, or communities situated on major rivers.

High Fire Danger: Any barriers that exist which provide protection from fuels less than 1 mile away in fewer than two cardinal directions. Examples of insignificant barriers are small streams or sloughs with narrow riparian zones situated in highly flammable fuel types.

BARRIER RATING CHART

Barrier Type	Rating for Community (Low, Moderate or High Fire Danger)	Where Found:
Water Features		
Other Natural Features		
Constructed (Human-made) Features		
Overall Community Barrier Rating		

Narrative description of natural barriers.

Narrative description of constructed (human-made) barriers.

4. Fire Protection Resource Availability

FIRE PROTECTION RESOURCES RESPONSE CHART

Response Time	Risk	Kind of Response (List resources available for initial attack)
Adequate initial attack resources are more than 75 minutes away and adequate extended attack resources are more than 12 hours away.	High	
Adequate initial attack resources are 30- 75 minutes away and adequate extended attack can be in place in 8-12 hours.	Moderate	
Adequate initial attack resources are less than 30 minutes away and adequate extended attack can be in place in less than 8 hours.	Low	
Overall Fire Response Rating		

Narrative description of fire protection resources.

5. Community Firewise Rating

Alaska Firewise Standards for Creating Defensible Space

Landscaping: There is a clearing of flammable vegetation at least 30 feet around the home for firefighting equipment: coniferous brush and dead/overhanging branches are removed; trees are pruned 6-10 feet above the ground; lawn is mowed and watered regularly, and ladder fuels are removed from the yard; remaining trees are spaced at least 30’ apart at crowns; garden equipment (hoses and hand tools) are kept on the property.

Construction Guidelines: Home is made of fire-resistant or non-combustible construction materials (especially important for roofing); vents are covered with wire mesh no larger than 1/8 inch; at least two ground-level doors exist; at least two means of escape exist in each room.

Water Supply Guidelines: Home has a reliable water source, 3 to 4 sprinklers and enough hose to circle the home.

Access Guidelines: Access roads are at least 2 lanes wide and clearly marked; ample turnaround space exists for vehicles/fire equipment. Clear of Flammables/Refuse/Debris Guidelines: Combustible materials are not located in the yard or under decks or porches; firewood is stored away (at least 30 feet) from the house; all debris or refuse is picked up regularly.

COMMUNITY FIREWISE FOR DEFENSIBLE SPACE RATING CHART
(Overall community assessment, not individual structures)

Alaska Firewise Standards	Low Excellent Over 65% of homesites and community buildings meet standard	Moderate Between 35- 65% of homesites and community buildings meet standard	High Less than 35% of homesites and community buildings meet standard
Landscaping			
Construction			
Water Supply			
Clear of Flammables/ Refuse/Debris (flammables stored properly & area cleared)			
Overall Rating			

Narrative description of fire protection resources.

6. Overall Community Rating

OVERALL RATING CHART

Category	Rating
Risk/Hazard Analysis of available fuels inside community (inside community to 1 mile)	
Risk/Hazard Analysis of available fuels outside community (1-10miles)	

Barriers	
Fire Protection Resource Availability	
Community Firewise Rating	

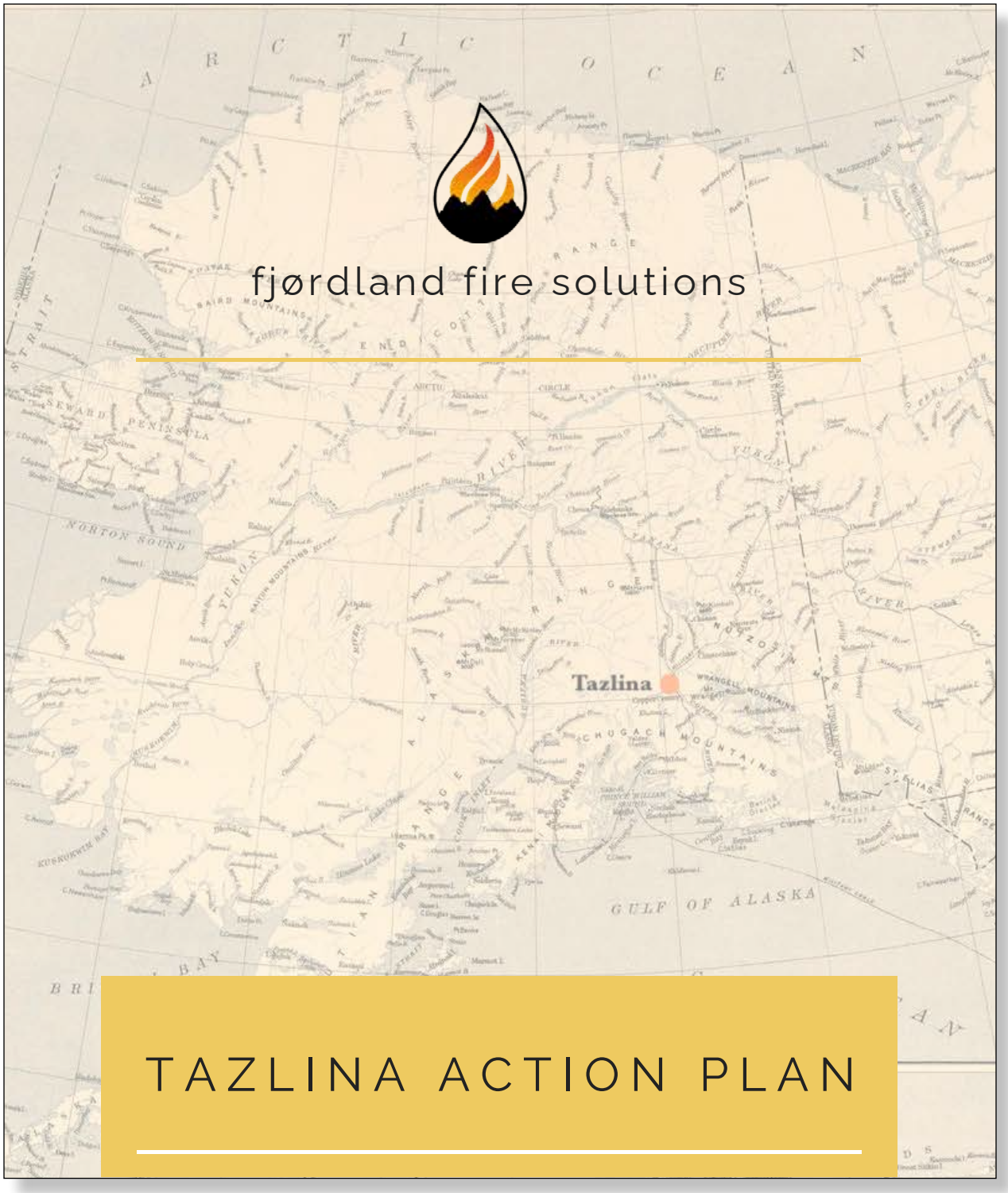
Narrative on other contributing factors to risk and mitigation of wildland fire in this community.

7. **Wildfire Risk to Communities (wildfirerisk.org) Rating Summary**

Appendix C

Fjørdland Fire Solutions

C.1 — RISK ASSESSMENT AND ACTION PLAN



CONTENTS

TAZLINA 2 FJØRDLAND FIRE SOLUTIONS

COMMUNITY CONCERNS

- Inadequate ingress/egress to homes
- Inadequate defensible space surrounding structures
- Pre-greenup tall grasses
- Inadequate road signage and house numbering/identifiers
- Need for update to Community Emergency Plan
- Need for community contact list
- Need for implementation of GPS coordinates of structures in VFD operations
- Inadequate access along Pipeline Road
- Need for education/public outreach on what information to relay when making a 911 call
- Need for maintenance of existing fuel breaks
- Need for maintenance/clearing around gravesites
- Need for clearing around Pipeline
- Junk cars/Hazmat
- Need for fire breaks on Tazlina land
- Need for Firewise emphasis on new construction projects as well as existing structures
- Firewood stored within close proximity to structures
- Need for more Red Card trained fuels crew members
- DOF/Agency Fire resources exhausted in the event of multiple localized fire starts
- Fuel loading in the Old School Area/Archdiocese Area
- Inadequate EMS response, access, local knowledge of area
- Disconnect between local EMS resources and Dispatch in Palmer
- Fish camps need identifiers/signage
- No community woody mass disposal site leads to improper/untimely burning by individual citizens
- Need for education/public outreach on safe burning practices/wildfire
- Need for screens/supplies to facilitate safe burning practices at fish camps
- Need for collaboration between entities to ensure maximum use of grant opportunities

MITIGATION PRIORITIES

1

Establish Community Wildfire Exposure Model Map

Associated Tasks

1. Create mapping system for Tazlina to determine which structures are most at risk of wildfire exposure
   a. Metrics should include fuels, topography and terrain-driven wind influences
   b. Use exposure model mapping system to establish community defensible space priorities
2. Coordinate public outreach to inform homes/neighborhoods of their risk determinations

Additional Notes

Exposure Model Mapping to be made public so-as to encourage a sense of individual homeowner responsibility for the Firewising of their own homes.

TAZLINA 4 FJØRDLAND FIRE SOLUTIONS

2

Community Firewise/Defensible Space

Associated Tasks

1. Reinstitute WUI Grant Cost Share Incentive Program for private/homeowner fuels reduction around structures
2. Adopt and apply Alaska Firewise Standards to all at-risk structures
    a. Firewise should include ample escape routes and safety zones for every household, as well as alternate escape routes and safety zones. If escape routes/safety zones are not viable, construct them
    b. Firewise should include evacuation plan for all pets and livestock
    c. Widen overgrown escape routes and establish ample ingress, egress, structural road capacities, and turnarounds for Emergency Vehicles
3. Post clear signage throughout community with adequate system for structure identification
4. Create system of structure mapping (including Firewise ratings) for land manager/emergency responder use
5. Institute program to remove junk vehicles and other hazmat
6. Provide community Firewise outreach and education
    a. Include general wildfire education, safe burning practices and correct procedures for relaying information to a 911 dispatcher
7. Provide Firewise construction method information to new construction projects

Additional Notes

It should be emphasized to the community that fuels reduction focus should be primarily on tall grasses and Spruce species. Firewise efforts should be combined with Forest Stewardship Program directives.

It should be emphasized to community members that spruce is best cut at a certain time of year in order to mitigate the spread of spruce beetles.

3 Upate Community Emergency Plan

Associated Tasks

1. Modernize existing Community Emergency Plan
   a. Include updated and centralized community contact list
   b. Include maps with road signage and house identifiers (in conjunction with community Firewise mapping)

4 VFD Training & Funding

Associated Tasks

1. Apply for Federal Grants to bolster Glenn Rich VFD with improved infrastructure, equipment and training
   a. Implement GPS system capabilities for faster response times
   b. Frequent training between VFD, DOF, proposed local Fuels Crew as well as standardization of Standard Operating Procedures
   c. Increased Wildfire training and equipment
   d. Increased training with Alaska Coastal Dispatch Center to increase knowledge of local road system

Additional Notes

Emphasis on Wildfire Training for VFD including but not limited to FFT1 (Squad Boss) qualification and CRWB (Crew Boss) qualification.
Emphasis should be placed on equipment and systems that use GPS capabilities between Central Dispatch and individual VFD vehicles.
.

5 Local Fuels Crew

Associated Tasks

1. Form local Fuels Crew
    a. Attain funding to form Fuels Crew to assist in fuels reduction projects, Native Allotment protection, Heritage Site protection, Gravesite protection and community Firewise
    b. Prioritize Wildfire training for Fuels Crew
    c. Prioritize close working relationship/overlap with VFD, as well as DOF and other Wildfire agencies

Additional Notes

Emphasis on Wildfire Training for local Fuels Crew including but not limited to FFT1 (Squad Boss) qualification and CRWB (Crew Boss) qualification.
A current viable pathway to Fuels Crew funding is through BIA financial incentive programs.

6 Re-treat Fuel Reduction Projects

Associated Tasks

1. Re-treat pre-established fuel reduction projects with emphasis on Habitat Enhancement and Biomass Utilization
2. Procure necessary equipment to re-treat historical fuel breaks
    a. Where possible, create/improve access for EMS vehicles

MITIGATION PRIORITIES

7 Protection of Native Heritage Sites, Allotments, Gravesites

Associated Tasks

1. Identify heritage sites/allotments/gravesites to be protected and implement appropriate measures
   a. Create improved mapping of heritage sites and allotments so that agency firefighters can locate and protect
   b. Implement safe burning practices at fish camps

Additional Notes

Provide public outreach to inform Native Allotment holders of the funding sources available to pre-treat Allotment boundaries in anticipation of wildfire.

8 Fuels Project in Old Archdiocese/Old School Area

Associated Tasks

1. Work with Village of Tazlina to create and implement a plan to reduce fuel loading and promote safe burning practices
   a. Consider utilizing proposed Fuels Crew/Agency workforce to implement large scale fuels work in this area as needed
   b. Consider a program to open the area to the harvesting of standing dead timber for individual household firewood/biomass
   c. Explore options for funding for safe burning equipment i.e. screens for burning/open fires

MITIGATION PRIORITIES

9 Fuel Break South of Tazlina

Associated Tasks

1. Identify/designate a viable location for a fuel break south of the structures located south of the Tazlina River
   a. Fuel Break to extend from Pipeline Road to Richardson Highway
   b. Fuel Break to utilize natural barriers and serve as a potential backfire location to mitigate fire encroaching from the south

Additional Notes

In the creation of Fuel Break, look at the viability of utilizing byproduct as biomass.

10 Biomass Viability

Associated Tasks

1. Continually reevaluate the viability of biomass solutions in Native Village of Tazlina, Tazlina, and adjacent communities
2. Explore the possibility of biomass utilization of byproducts from the re-treatment of defensible spaces and the fuel loading reduction of Archdiocese/Old School area

11

Community Woody Mass Disposal Site

Associated Tasks

1. Identify/designate an area for the community/private landowner to dispose of woody mass byproduct of community Firewise and fuel reduction projects
   a. Ideal area would be easily accessible
   b. Allow community access to repurpose woody mass accumulation for firewood, biomass, etc.

C.2 — MAPS

MAPS APPENDIX

TAZLINA 11

FJØRDLAND FIRE SOLUTIONS

Table of Contents:

Asset Details: **(Page 3)**

Wildfire Exposure: FEMA PRIM_OCC
****
Unclassified: 201 | 100.00%

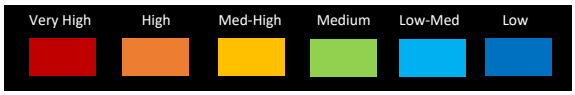
Wildfire Exposure: FEMA OCC_CLS
****
Unclassified: 163 | 81.09%
Residential: 38 | 18.91%

Polygon Area: 37.15 square miles
Total Points: 201
Point Density: 5.41 points per square mile

Map Legends: **(Page 4 and Page 5)**

Asset Exposure Minutes:

Burn Probability:



Simulated Terrain Winds: **(Page 6)**

Min Speed: 05 mph | Max Speed: 06 mph | Max Dir: 149.0 degrees | Compass Dir: SE | Style c2 | Color: Light Blue (ff0080ff) | Location Count: 8
Min Speed: 06 mph | Max Speed: 09 mph | Max Dir: 153.0 degrees | Compass Dir: SE | Style c3 | Color: Green (ff00ffff) | Location Count: 2551
Min Speed: 09 mph | Max Speed: 12 mph | Max Dir: 157.0 degrees | Compass Dir: SE | Style c4 | Color: Yellow (ff00ff00) | Location Count: 1791

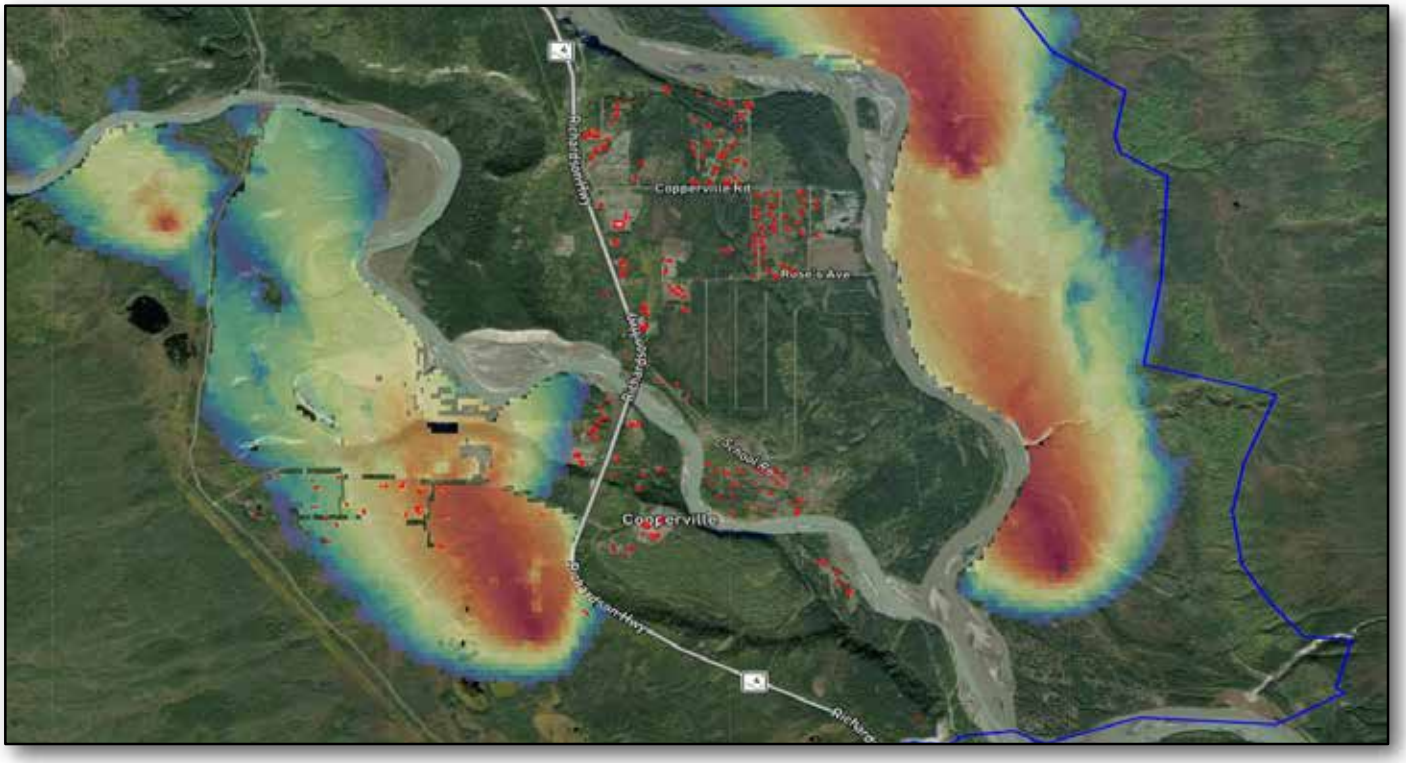
Tazlina, Alaska
Asset Exposure Count

J.Logan | R.Kennedy
Last Modified: Mon Jul 15 15:43:57 UTC 2024
Wildfire Exposure Toolkit (WET) Version 2.0

Page 3 of 12:: 201 assets have wildfire exposure - 19% residences and 81% uncategorized (red). See Page 2 for asset details. CWPP Boundary (blue). Asset density heatmap (gold and blue).

Tazlina, Alaska
Asset Exposure within Minutes

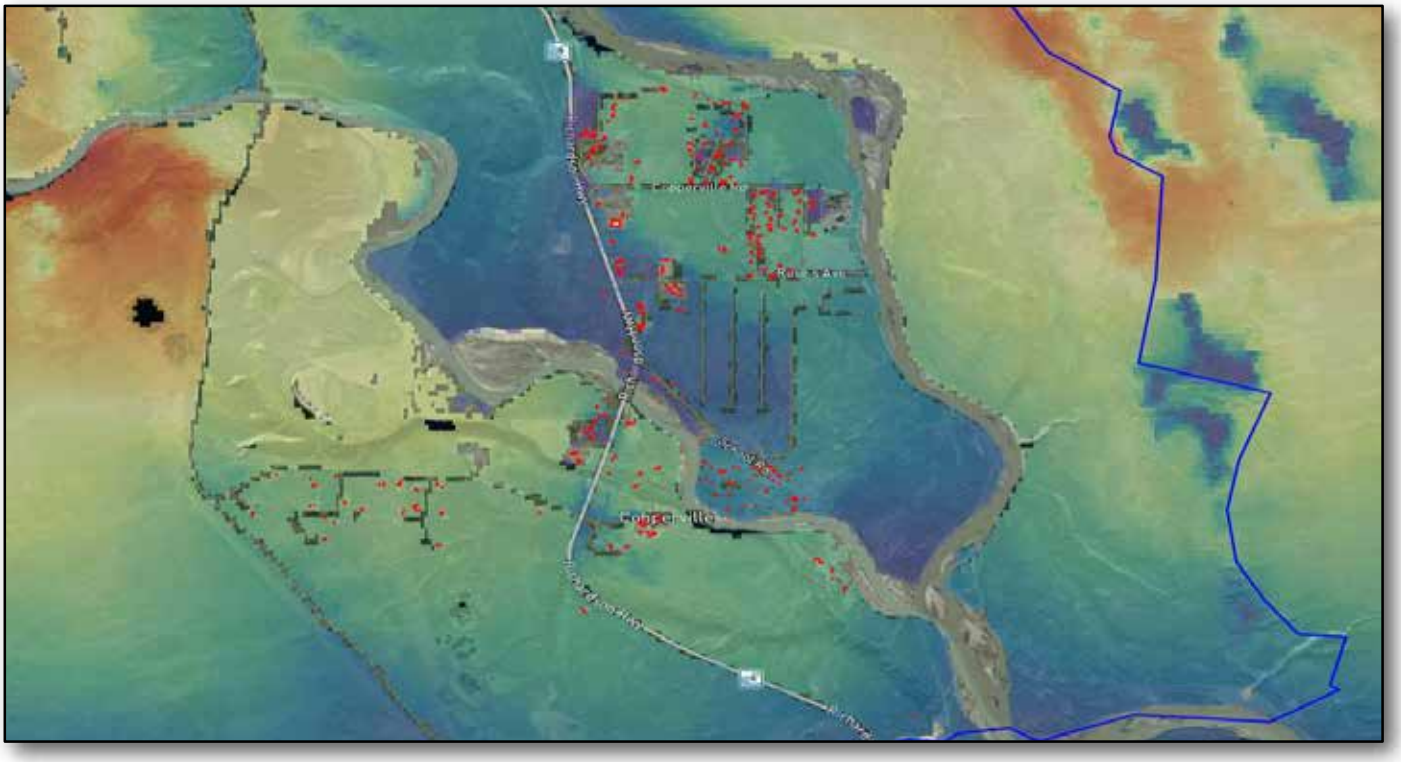
J.Logan | R.Kennedy
Last Modified: Mon Jul 15 15:43:57 UTC 2024
Wildfire Exposure Toolkit (WET) Version 2.0



Page 4 of 12:: Asset Exposure within 160 minutes for 4 simulated wildland fire events (red and orange regions). See Page 2 for map legend. Assets (red) and CWPP Boundary (blue). Wind speed 15 MPH and SE direction.

Tazlina, Alaska
Burn Probability

J.Logan | R.Kennedy
Last Modified: Mon Jul 15 15:43:57 UTC 202424
Wildfire Exposure Toolkit (WET) Version 2.0



Page 5 of 12:: Burn probability highest in NW and NE quadrant of red and orange regions for 4000 simulated wildland fire events. See Page 2 for map legend. CWPP Boundary (blue). Assets (red). Wind speed 15 MPH and SE direction.

Tazlina, Alaska
Terrain Winds

J.Logan | R.Kennedy
Last Modified: Mon Jul 15 15:43:57 UTC 2024
Wildfire Exposure Toolkit (WET) Version 2.0

Page 6 of 12:: Terrain influences of wind speed and direction shown by arrow direction and color. See Page 2 for map legend. CWPP Boundary (blue). Wind speed 15 MPH and SE direction.

Mon Jul 15 15:43:57 UTC 2024
40 Fuel Categories and Fire Behavior
Sorted by Square Miles and Acres

'TU5 Very high load | dry climate timber shrub | heavy forest litter | moderate spread rate and flame'| 78324 px: 17418.9 ac: 27.217 mi
'TU1 Low load | dry climate timber grass shrub | low spread rate and flame'| 16660 px: 3705.1 ac: 5.78922 mi
'SH4 Low load | humid climate timber shrub | woody shrubs and litter | high spread rate and flame'| 12287 px: 2732.57 ac: 4.26963 mi
'TU4 Moderate load | dwarf conifer with understory | moderate spread rate and flame'| 5334 px: 1186.25 ac: 1.85352 mi
'NB8 Open Water'| 4515 px: 1004.11 ac: 1.56893 mi
'NB9 Barren'| 2586 px: 575.113 ac: 0.898614 mi
'GS2 Moderate load | dry climate grass-shrub | 1-3 ft high | moderate spread rate and flame'| 2137 px: 475.258 ac: 0.74259 mi
'NB1 Urban/Developed'| 2111 px: 469.476 ac: 0.733555 mi
'TU3 Moderate load | humid climate timber grass shrub | high spread rate and moderate flame'| 1266 px: 281.552 ac: 0.439925 mi
'GS1 Low load | dry climate grass-shrub | low-spread rate and moderate flame'| 764 px: 169.91 ac: 0.265484 mi
'GR1 Short-sparse dry grass | low fire spread and flame'| 723 px: 160.791 ac: 0.251237 mi
'TL2 Low load | broadleaf litter | low spread rate and flame'| 469 px: 104.303 ac: 0.162974 mi
'SH2 Moderate load | dry climate shrub | woody shrubs and litter | low spread rate and flame'| 408 px: 90.7371 ac: 0.141777 mi
'GR2 Low load | dry grass | no affect'| 341 px: 75.8366 ac: 0.118495 mi
'TU2 Moderate load | humid climate timber-shrub | moderate spread rate and flame'| 274 px: 60.9362 ac: 0.0952128 mi
'TL6 Moderate load | broadleaf litter | moderate spread rate and flame'| 110 px: 24.4634 ac: 0.0382241 mi
'TL3 Moderate load | conifer litter and coarse fuels | low spread rate and flame'| 18 px: 4.00311 ac: 0.00625485 mi

Page 7 of 12:: Fuels include 27 square miles of Very High Load timber shrub with moderate rate of spread and flame length.

Tazlina, Alaska
Fuel Categories

J.Logan | R.Kennedy
Last Modified: Mon Jul 15 15:43:57 UTC 2024
Wildfire Exposure Toolkit (WET) Version 2.0

Page 8 of 12:: 40 Fuel Categories for Alaska wildland fire modeling. CWPP Boundary (blue). See Page 7 for map legend.

Tazlina, Alaska
SpruceHunter v2.2

J.Logan | R.Kennedy
Last Modified: Mon Jul 15 15:43:57 UTC 2024
Wildfire Exposure Toolkit (WET) Version 2.0

Page 9 of 12:: Black Spruce and White Spruce (deep red). CWPP Boundary (blue).

Tazlina, Alaska
GrassLander v1.0

J.Logan | R.Kennedy
Last Modified: Mon Jul 15 15:43:57 UTC 2024
Wildfire Exposure Toolkit (WET) Version 2.0

Page 10 of 12:: Fuels of Grass Shrub (gold). CWPP Boundary (blue).

Feature Type: Locale
Name: [Bazdlende], Literal: current flows to it
Name: Hwc'ele' Ta' Ik'e Ngedzeni, Literal: father of rags is standing upon it

Feature Type: Mouth
Name: Ciisi K'e Cae'e, Literal: dipnet hole mouth

Feature Type: Stream
Name: Natu' Kaghii'aaden, Literal: where salt water flows upward
Name: Natu' Na', Literal: salt stream, salt water flows up stream

Feature Type: Summit
Name: Ciisi K'e Cae'e Bese', Literal: dipnet hole mouth
Name: Daniitsen Tezdlen Bese', Literal: upstream side swift current
Name: Nadetkay, Literal: long object that fell down
Name: Saas Daexi, Literal: falling sand
Name: Tezdlen Na' Bese', Literal: swift current stream bank
Name: Xudaaats'en Tezdlen Bese', Literal: downstream swift-current bank

Feature Type: Village
Name: Tezdlen Cae'e, Literal: swift current mouth

Much Gratitude to collaborators from the aerospace and wildland fire community as foundation of

Wildfire Exposure Toolkit (WET) Version 2.0, including:

* Sentinel Hub is a live workflow platform for satellite imagery and data processing. It provides access to European Space Agency's Copernicus program, particularly the Sentinel satellites. Retrieved from https://www.sentinel-hub.com.
* LANDFIRE fuels data is provided by the United States Forest Service (USFS) as part of the LANDFIRE program. Retrieved from https://www.landfire.gov.
* Impact Observatory's innovative AI-powered methods automate and accelerate Land Use Land Cover mapping and monitoring in near-real-time. IO Monitor uses a unique deep learning approach to classify land use and land cover categories globally using state-of-the-art Copernicus Sentinel-2 imagery. Retrieved from IO Monitor 2022 Impact Observatory.
* Maxar's satellite technology Vivid Basemap, up to 30 cm resolution and 5 m CE90 spatial accuracy, is an indispensable tool for visualizing the vast and rugged landscapes of Alaska, enabling detailed feature extraction across large areas. Basis to manage and mitigate the impact of wildfires in Alaska's unique and challenging terrain.
* Missoula Fire Sciences Laboratory for modeling and analyzing fire behavior and potential fire spread. Topography, weather conditions, and fuel characteristics used for Monte Carlo simulation of wildland fire behavior in different landscapes. Retrieved from MISSOULA FIRE SCIENCES LABORATORY Rocky Mountain Research Station (RMRS) Fire, Fuel, and Smoke Science (FFS) Program. Open Data 2023.
* MapBox offers live workflow platform and great global team of builders, developers, geographers, data scientists, designers, and AI visionaries, all working together to reimagine the world.
* NOAA/NCEP HRRR (High-Resolution Rapid Refresh) model is a cornerstone in meteorological forecasting, delivering timely and accurate high-resolution weather predictions. Retrieved from https://www.ncep.noaa.gov. Open Data 2023.
* National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Department of Homeland Security (DHS)-2023.
* SpruceHunter v2.2 – White and Black Spruce in Alaska. Machine Learning Random Forest Model for Supervised Classification.
* GrassLander v1.0 - Fuel types of Grass and Shrubs.
* Boots in the Black – Joe, Rob, Kogen, Julian, Russell. You inspire.

Appendix D

Bureau of Land Management Glennallen Field Office Risk Assessments

Wildland Fire Community Risk Assessment

Planning Area: Tazlina	

Overall Rating

Category	Rating
Fuels Risk/Hazard inside community	High
Fuels Risk/Hazard outside community	High
Barriers	Moderate
Fire Protection	Moderate
Community Firewise Rating	High
NFRC Database-Wildfire Likelihood	High 83rd Percentile
Final Rating:	**High**

Background/History

Current Population: 244 (Population Year: 2020)

Tazlina is located 5 miles south of Glennallen on the Richardson Highway, at mile 110.5. It is comprised of several small residential subdivisions and a business district. Copperville, Aspen Valley, Tazlina Terrace and Copper Valley School Road are all part of this area. It lies at approximately 62° 04' N Latitude, 146° 27' W Longitude (Sec. 21, T003N, R001W, Copper River Meridian). The community is located in the Chitina Recording District. The area encompasses 13 sq. miles of land and 1 sq. miles of water.

The village reportedly was a fishing camp of the Ahtna Indian tribes who historically moved up and down the Copper River and its tributaries. Tazlina is Athabascan for "swift water." By 1900 a permanent village had been established on the north and south banks off the Tazlina River near its confluence with the Copper River. During the pipeline era, Tazlina developed around the old Copper Valley School, built to board students from all over the state. It closed in 1971, when local high schools were constructed in the remote areas of the state and boarding schools were discontinued.

Overview / Values

Location/Ownership Map:

Community Areas of Concern:

Most of the infrastructure north of the Tazlina river and west of the Copper within the Community have good defensible space. Their location in relation to these rivers also makes them nearly surrounded by natural barriers. Most of the remaining infrastructure south of the Tazlina river does not have the benefit of these natural barriers and are therefore at a higher risk to wildfire. Structure and vegetation fires within this part of the community have the potential to spread into the wildland, and fires in the wildland have a high potential to enter parts of the community.

Community Overview / Values Map:

Fuels Assessment

Risk/Hazard Analysis (Inside and with-in 1 mile of the community)

FUEL Types (predicted fire behavior based on historic summertime weather with hot, dry conditions)	Wildland Fire Hazard	Percent of Area
Black Spruce Boreal Forest (CFFDRS=C2) *rate of spread: high / intensity: high / spotting potential: high*	High	**20%**
Black Spruce Lichen Woodland (CFFDRS=C1) *rate of spread: moderate /intensity: moderate / spotting potential: high*	High	**20%**
Grass (cured tall standing or matted; CFFDRS = O1a/O1b) *rate of spread: high / intensity: moderate / spotting potential: low*	Moderate	**15%**
Mixed Boreal Forest (may include white or black spruce, aspen and/or birch; CFFDRS=M1) rate of spread: moderate / intensity: moderate / spotting potential: moderate	Moderate	**25%**
Insect and Disease in Mixed Boreal Forest (may include white or black spruce, aspen and/or birch. CFFDRS=M4 30%) rate of spread: moderate / intensity: high / spotting potential: moderate	Moderate	**0%**
Hardwood Forest (includes aspen & birch; CFFDRS use D1 or M1, M2) *rate of spread: low / intensity: low / spotting potential: low*	Low	**10%**
Deciduous Brush (includes willow & alder) *rate of spread: low / intensity: low / spotting potential: low*	Low	**10%**

Keep in mind this is a general overview of the fuels within and up to 1 mile around the community. For some small areas near subdivisions, near riverbanks, and near other manmade or natural features this rating may not be representative. It is however just meant to be an overview of the area described.

Risk / Hazard Analysis (1 -10 miles outside community that can impact community)

FUEL Types (predicted fire behavior based on historic summertime weather with hot, dry conditions)	Wildland Fire Hazard	Percent of Area
Black Spruce Boreal Forest (CFFDRS=C2) *rate of spread: high / intensity: high / spotting potential: high*	High	**25%**
Black Spruce Lichen Woodland (CFFDRS=C1) *rate of spread: moderate /intensity: moderate / spotting potential: high*	High	**25%**
Grass (cured tall standing or matted; CFFDRS = O1a/O1b) *rate of spread: high / intensity: moderate / spotting potential: low*	Moderate	**15%**
Mixed Boreal Forest (may include white or black spruce, aspen and/or birch; CFFDRS=M1) rate of spread: moderate / intensity: moderate / spotting potential: moderate	Moderate	**10%**
Insect and Disease in Mixed Boreal Forest (may include white or black spruce, aspen and/or birch. rate of spread: moderate / intensity: high / spotting potential: moderate CFFDRS=M4 30%)	Moderate	**10%**
Hardwood Forest (includes aspen & birch; CFFDRS use D1 or M1, M2) *rate of spread: low / intensity: low / spotting potential: low*	Low	**5%**
Deciduous Brush (includes willow & alder) *rate of spread: low / intensity: low / spotting potential: low*	Low	**10%**

Keep in mind this is a general overview of the fuels within 1 and up to 10 miles outside the community. For some small areas near subdivisions, near riverbanks, and near other manmade or natural features this rating may not be representative. It is however just meant to be an overview of the area described.

Fuels Map:

Barrier(s) Assessment

Natural: The Community is located on the west side of the Copper River and primarily adjacent to and south of the Tazlina River. The lands between the Copper and Tazlina rivers are nearly surrounded by natural barriers. Other various riparian features are consistent throughout the area including small lakes, creeks, and rivers. Hardwood stands and hardwood brush which are also present can slow fire spread under certain conditions. With wind and dry fuel sources many of these natural barriers may be ineffective due to spotting.

Constructed: The Richardson Hwy. runs north to south through the center of the area from approximately mile 113 to 108. The Trans-Alaska Pipeline also runs north to south, west of the Richardson highway through the entire area. Several small gravel roads and other human made openings are present throughout the area, some of these openings could be affective in slowing fire growth.

Barrier Rating Chart

Barrier Type (list specific type under excellent, fair or poor)	*Rating
Water (may include lakes, rivers, streams and sloughs)	Moderate
Natural features (may include barren landscape, rock, topographic features)	Moderate
Human-made features (may include airstrips or other clearings)	Moderate
Overall Rating	**Moderate**

Barrier Rating Chart Key:

Low Fire Danger: The community has a barrier(s) that provides thorough protection from fuels less than one mile away in at least three cardinal directions. An example of this would be a small community sandwiched between a major river and a runway or a community on an island.

Moderate Fire Danger: The community has a barrier(s) that provides thorough protection from fuels less than one mile away in at least two cardinal directions. Communities may have multiple barriers affecting a rating. Examples are airstrips separating a community from significant outside fuels, communities set amidst certain vegetation types or some communities situated on major rivers.

High Fire Danger: Any barriers that exist provide protection from fuels less than one mile away in fewer than two cardinal directions. Examples of insignificant barriers are small streams or sloughs with narrow riparian zones situated amid highly flammable fuel types.

Fire History Map:

Depending on the severity/consumption of the burn, fuels remaining, time of year, and current conditions, fires may or may not carry through old burn scars. In general, burn scars older than 15 years will not significantly hinder the ability for a fire to carry through the burn scar (unless the severity of the burn was high, the tundra mat was consumed, and birch saplings or willow/alder regrew). Resistance to control will be lessened, and the probability of a running/spotting head fire will be dramatically reduced.

Firewise Assessment

Community Firewise Rating for Defensible Space Assessment
(Overall Community Assessment Not Individual Structures)

Alaska Firewise Standards	**Low** Over 65% of homesites and community buildings meet standard	**Moderate** 35-65% of homesites and community buildings meet standard	**High** 35% or less of homesites and community buildings meet standard
Landscaping			High
Construction			High
Water Supply			High
Access		Moderate	
Clear of Flammables/ Refuse/Debris (flammables stored properly & area cleared)			High
Overall Rating			**High**

Alaska Firewise Rating Chart Key:

Landscaping: Clearing of flammable vegetation at least 30 feet around the home for firefighting equipment; coniferous brush and dead/overhanging branches are removed; trees are pruned 6-10 feet above the ground; lawn is mowed and watered regularly, and ladder fuels are removed from the yard; remaining trees are spaced at least 30 feet apart at crowns; garden equipment (hoses and hand tools) are kept on the property.

Construction Guidelines: Home is made of fire-resistant or non-combustible construction materials (especially important for roofing); vents are covered with wire mesh no larger than 1/8 inch; at least two ground-level doors exist; at least two means of escape exist in each room.

Water Supply Guidelines: Home has a reliable water source, 3 to 4 sprinklers and enough hose to circle the home.

Access Guidelines: Access roads are at least two lanes wide and clearly marked; ample turnaround space exists for vehicles/fire equipment.

Clear of Flammables/Refuse/Debris Guidelines: Combustible materials are not located in the yard or under decks or porches; firewood is stored away (at least 30 feet) from the house; all debris or refuse is picked up regularly.

Fire Protection Resources

The community rates Moderate based on limited wildland fire capabilities, including trained personnel and equipment available. Wildland fire response is the responsibility of the state of Alaska Department of Forestry and Fire and local volunteer departments, based out of Tazlina and Glennallen, neighboring communities also have some volunteer resources available. Local resources are primarily Type 6 fire engines and water tenders. With a response time of about 30 minutes. Fire retardant is available from Palmer with a response time of about 60 minutes, and from Fairbanks with a response time of about 90 minutes. During the primary fire season May-July there could also be a helicopter capable of bucket drops available locally depending on fire danger and availability. Smokejumpers are also available from Fairbanks with a response time of about 90 minutes. There could also be Crews available from Palmer and Fairbanks with a minimum response time of 6-12 hours and up to 48 hours depending on availability and other fire activity across the state. One of the biggest concerns is number of resources available. Although most of the communities in the area have some form of fire protection resources, most if not all do not have and adequate number of resources immediately available to assist with anything but small initial attack fires. Due to this situation all communities in the area will be rated as High Risk. Some communities are somewhat better off than others due to location along the road system. However, the region (Alaska) as a whole lacks adequate numbers of fire protection resources during times of high fire danger.

Fire Protection Resources Response Chart

Response Time	Kind of Resource (initial and extended attack)	Risk	Overall Risk
Initial attack resources are more than 75 minutes away and adequate extended attack resources are more than 12 hours away.	Hand Crews, Engines, Incident Command Teams, and Air resources.	High	High
Adequate initial attack resources are 30-75 minutes away and adequate extended attack can be in place in 8-12 hours.	Smoke Jumpers, Air Tankers, Air Attack.	Moderate	
Adequate initial attack resources are less than 30 minutes away and adequate extended attack can be in place in less than 8 hours.	Local Volunteer Fire Department Engine, personnel, Water Tender and Dozers.	Low	

Possible mitigation measures:

- **Fuel Breaks**: There are many opportunities for fuel breaks in the area such as widening road and river corridors, connecting segments of existing man made and natural breaks in the fuel, widen or improve the pipeline corridor, maintain and improve existing previously constructed fuel breaks, coordinate with surrounding communities for construction large multi community breaks, and construct small scale breaks around specific subdivisions and population clusters that are in need of improvement. It is very important fuel breaks be maintained to ensure they remain effective.

- **Fire Wise Communities**: Some areas have done a very good job of creating defensible space and doing what is necessary to make their area resistant to wildfire, others have done little or no work and pose a significant risk to fire in the wildland urban interface (WUI). It is important to educate and assist communities and doing what is necessary to mitigate fire risks in the WUI. Creating a cost share options to assist homeowners is one way to help them to complete projects that will create a safer community.

- **Increase Fire Protection Resources:** The region (Alaska) as a whole does not have adequate fire protection resources during times of high fire danger. Increasing the capacity of federal, state and local resources would help the communities reduce the potential damage caused by wildfire to area communities.

Tazlina

COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN

Tazlina_CWPP (1)

Final Audit Report 2026-02-11

Created:	2026-02-11
By:	Emery Johnson (Emery_Johnson@firenet.gov)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAAzjmNad8rvm4GZWIg7wU6n_Kw9LVJQ_Pb

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