Wildland Fire in Alaska Barrow Wildland Fires, 1950 - 2006 **Prudhoe Bay** Kotzebue **Fire Management Areas** BLM, Alaska Fire Service - 194 million acres Alaska Division of Forestry - 150 million acres U.S. Forest Service - 26 million acres The Alaska Division of Forestry, Bureau of Land Management, and U.S. Forest Service are responsible for wildland fire management in Alaska. Each agency protects specific geographic areas under cooperative agreements. This avoids duplication of fire protection resources and efforts, realizes substantial savings, and provides for the most effective fire response Scale 1:10,000,000 Alaska Wildland Fire History, 1950 to 2006 8,000,000 _ Acres 6,000,000 6.7 million acres 4,000,000 2,000,000



2006 Alaska Fire **Protection Level Map**

Critical: highest suppression priority to protect human life, inhabited property and inprovements specified by the land manager.

Full: suppression priority to structures, cultural sites, and high value natural resource areas.

Modified: suppression priority to provide suppression when potential for fire growth is high.

Limited: Fires monitored but not usually fought unless higher priority areas are threatened.

Interagency Wildland Fire Management Plan

Prior to completion of area fire plans in 1988, agencies attempted to fight all wildland fires in Alaska. Often, there were not enough firefighters and equipment. This approach was expensive, inefficient, impractical, and impossible.

The agencies responsible for fighting wildland fires in Alaska now follow a plan that identifies four protection levels for response to fires. Fire managers are able to quickly identify the most appropriate response to new fires. No other state has a similar interagency

State, Federal and Native corporation land managers may adjust fire management protection levels for their lands every winter between the fire seasons.

Who Decides?

Most Privately Owned Lands:

Alaska Deptartment of Natural Resources **Native Allotments:**

The Federal Bureau of Indian Affairs **Native Corporation Lands:**

The individual Native corporations

Public Lands:

The State or Federal agencies that manage them





Interior wildland fires affect Fairbanks air quality



South Fairbanks, June 28, 2004. Air quality particulate level at approximately 900 micrograms / cubic meter.



South Fairbanks, July 6, 2004. Air quality particulate level at approximately 10 micrograms / cubic meter.