

ALASKA DIVISION OF FORESTRY & FIRE PROTECTION | STATEWIDE FUELS PROGRAM UPDATE

The Alaska Division of Forestry & Fire Protection (DOF) fuels program continues to deliver measurable results—protecting lives, property, and infrastructure across the state’s highest-risk wildland urban interface (WUI) areas. Strategic investments in fuel breaks and mitigation reduce wildfire suppression costs and create fire adapted communities.

Statewide Program Highlights (2024–2025)

- 30+ active fuels projects
 - 2025 Fuels Project Spotlight - East-West Connector Fuels Project was a high-priority project designed to reduce wildfire risk between the Hilltop Ski Area and the Anchorage Hillside. The 1.25-mile, 200-foot-wide shaded fuel break spanned 40 acres and was completed on May 30.
- Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) development and utility corridor protection
- Emergency Firefighter (EFF) workforce development through fuels work

Community Wildfire Defense Grants (CWDG)

- 10 new applications underway
- Supports CWPPs, education, treatments
- Expanding utility corridor partnerships (e.g., Homer Electric)

2026 Program Priorities by Region

Coastal Region

Mat-Su Area

- Launch Susitna North Mechanical Thinning
- Initiate Hilltop Road, Potters Marsh, and Stuckagain Heights projects
- Palmer Hay Flats fuel break (30 acres) and prescribed burn in coordination with ADF&G
- Continue Lynx Lake, Maud Road, and Little Granite fuels projects

Kenai/Kodiak Area

- Continue Kenai Strategic Fuel Break planning
- Expand Wharf and Aleut thinning projects

Copper River/Valdez Area

- Identify new Glennallen CWPP projects
- Retreatment of Glennallen community protection fuel break

Southwest Area

- Employ EFFs for McGrath, Takotna, Nikolai, Telida (MTNT) projects
- CWPP for MTNT communities - funded by 2025 Western States’ WUI Grant Program

Northern Region

Fairbanks

- Fund Fairbanks North Star Borough and Nenana CWPPs
- Two-mile Keystone Neighborhood Fuel Break - funded by 2025 Western States’ WUI Grant Program
- Freeman Road community protection project

Delta

- Bison habitat prescribed fire in coordination with ADF&G
- CWPP development

Tok

- Community protection fuel breaks in collaboration with USFWS

Recreation Areas

- Hazard fuel reduction: Harding Lake, Quartz Lake, Lost Lake, Clearwater

Impact of Fuels Program

Fuel breaks continue to prove their value in protecting Alaskan communities and reducing suppression costs. Between 2022 and 2025, fuels breaks have been used as an operational tool on wildfires in Delta, Tok, and Fairbanks. DOF has also integrated training and mitigation by using fuels projects as the basis for building firefighter capacity.

