

The successful Round 2 CWDG applications that were submitted with assistance from the State of Alaska Division of Forestry & Fire Protection were:

Northern Region #1 (Delta Area) CWPP Planning Project:

The DOF submitted a planning application that was awarded funding in Round 2 to create an updated Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) for the town, and 17-mile area, surrounding Delta Junction, Alaska. The previous CWPP from 2012 will undergo a comprehensive evaluation and update to respond to the community's current needs, including development and growth into adjoining wildland-urban interface, and changing conditions in climate and vegetation. This CWPP project will focus on community risk assessments, vegetation and fire history research, local climate and environmental trends, evacuation and egress route analysis and determine the local priority areas for protection. The new CWPP will also work to build in and advocate for more local state capacity and fuels training, so important mitigation work and outreach can be accomplished. Mitigation actions will focus on the protection of private property and values at risk, as well as prevention outreach to inform residents about how they can reduce their home's ignition potential and build fire adaptive communities.

Alaska DOF Northern Region #2 (Tok Area) CWPP Planning Project:

The DOF submitted a planning application that was awarded funding in Round 2 to create an updated Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) for the Tok area and surrounding communities of Northway, Tetlin, Tanacross, Mentasta, Eagle and Dot Lake. The previous CWPP from 2008 will undergo a comprehensive evaluation and update to respond to the community's current needs, including development and growth into adjoining wildland-urban interface, and changing conditions in climate and vegetation. This CWPP project will focus on community risk assessments, vegetation and fire history research, local climate and environmental trends, evacuation and egress route analysis and determine the local priority areas for protection. The new CWPP will also work to build in and advocate for more local state capacity and fuels training, so important mitigation work and outreach can be accomplished. Mitigation actions will focus on the protection of private property and values at risk, as well as prevention outreach to inform residents about how they can reduce their home's ignition potential and build fire adaptive communities.

Homer Electric Association (HEA) Implementation Project:

Homer Electric Association, Inc. (HEA), a not for-profit 501(c)(12) electric utility cooperative, submitted an application that was awarded implementation funding in Round 2. HEA serves the Kenai Peninsula Borough (KPB) including numerous ocean isolated, land-locked, or rural communities, Alaska Native Villages, and the communities of Soldotna, Funny River, Halibut Cove, Nanwalek, Nikiski, and Ridgeway. To address the growing risk associated with excessive fast-growth trees and vegetation, including those dead or damaged due to Spruce Bark Beetle (SBB) infestation, this project will follow local KPB CWPP recommendations for Right-of-way (ROW) clearing within and abutting HEA's ROW distribution lines easement.

The SBB infestation and tree mortality across the Kenai Peninsula Borough has greatly increased the area's flammable fuel stock. Falling trees can impact evacuation ingress and egress, wildfire response, and transportation needs. Additionally, trees that fall across power lines can act as an ignition source and/or impact power distribution. The ongoing SBB outbreaks increase wildfire potential in the wildland-urban interface, putting service-area communities and the critical electric infrastructure they depend upon, at greater risk of wildfire. Wildfire records from 1990-2020 confirm more than 2,000 fires have consumed over 500,000 acres on the Kenai Peninsula. These burgeoning threats were the catalyst for HEA to apply for CWDG funding to implement fuels mitigation projects from the 2022 Kenai Peninsula Community Wildfire Protection Plan. This hazardous fuel reduction project will be accomplished through a phased approach that addresses three high-priority regions for a total of 430.53 miles of cleared ROW.

Phase 1: Halibut Cove, Jackolof Bay, Port Graham, Nanwalek and Seldovia Village includes 60.93 miles of ROW clearing and removal of 2000 danger trees.

Phase 2: Sterling, Soldotna, and Funny River includes 189.35 miles of ROW clearing and 2000 danger trees.

Phase 3: Nikiski and Salmatof includes 180.25 miles of ROW clearing and removal of 2000 danger trees.

