



Denaina Drive/McIntyre Road

Chugach State Park Wildfire Mitigation Project

Area Description:

Black spruce lines the edge of the subdivision along Denaina Drive, bounded by McIntyre Road on the north and Kulchay Drive to the south. Access to this area is via Kulchay Drive which is the 26000 block of Eagle River Road. Treating these stretches for wildfire mitigation will help reduce fire spread through this neighborhood. Ignitions are likely to result from river users (similar to the 2016 spring wildfire near Hiland Road) and children playing with fire and fireworks. The volatility of black spruce increases the exposure of this area to wildfire and its potential to harm people and property. Stands of mixed conifer have decadent white spruce affected by spruce bark beetles. Currently, a portion of these dead trees are still falling down, causing increased fuel loading. Calamagrostis grass is growing in these openings, contributing to fire spread before green-up. 2017 operations are proposed for this location on Chugach State Park land (refer to attached map) adjacent to an adjoining tract of land along Denaina Drive, extending to and inclusive of lands off of Kulchay Drive and McIntyre Road. This site shows evidence of fire use and nearby river use. AFD is very willing to incorporate private land into these project sites.

Site Prescription:

AFD W-6 Wildland Fire Fuel Treatment Standard Operating Guidelines apply. Cut and remove all dead spruce trees within the designated fuel break area. Thin live black spruce trees to 10-15 feet between extending crowns. Use a clumping technique to maintain a natural appearance. Thin live white spruce trees to 10-15 feet between extending crowns. Prune residual trees 4-6 feet up from the ground to remove ladder fuels. Clumps of trees may be left with spacing between clumps increased to 25 feet (white and black spruce). Thinning applies to regenerating trees where ladder fuels must be mitigated. Emphasis should be placed on retaining a natural appearance. Instead of a precisely spaced stand of trees, it is desirable to vary spacing and clump size to retain a more natural effect.

Slash will be treated through a combination of burning and in-woods chipping. Burn operations will be conducted per air quality and fire danger conditions. In-woods chipping may necessitate mobilization of small equipment to travel through the site. All machinery operations are approved through AFD and the landowners before admittance into forested areas. Due regard will be given to preservation of soil, water quality, and aesthetics.

Log length and firewood length material will be assessed for the volume generated from the treatment. Small diameter material (less than 6 inches) will likely be burned or chipped. Larger material will be stacked in log lengths (approximately 6 feet) and the use will be determined by the Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation.

Public Notice:

This project may be started as early as May 15th, pending the public notification process. Intended crews are the Pioneer Peak Hotshots, Gannett Glacier Crew and an option for using a private contractor for slash treatment support (chipping). AFD will provide additional site specific notification to the neighborhood residents. The project description will be posted on the AFD Wildfire website, announced at

the in the Federation of Community Councils regular meeting, posted at conspicuous Denaina neighborhood locations and via social media on the Denaly Neighbors Facebook Page.

Project Contacts:

Anchorage Fire Department

John W. See

907-267-4902