



Anchorage Fire Department • Wildfire Mitigation Office

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State of Alaska Mental Health Trust Land Northern Lights & Bragaw 2010 Wildfire Mitigation Project

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To mitigate the risk and hazard of wildfire in the neighborhood, the Anchorage Fire Department has partnered with the State of Alaska Mental Health Trust Land Office to treat their property by removing dead trees, thinning dense black spruce and pruning the live healthy spruce trees. This project is expected to begin the week of February 8, 2010.

The State land on the corner of Northern Lights and Bragaw in Anchorage is a valuable tract of forest land just north of the University lands. While it hosts approximately 12 acres of forest, it also hosts vagrant activity and is the site of many brush fires. In an effort to limit fire ignitions and potential fire spread into the surrounding neighborhood, the forest treatment project will carefully remove fuels and limb trees. This effort also supports the growth and vigor of live trees.

Improving forest health in this park may be accomplished by pruning the live, residual trees to stave off a future bark beetle attack. Removing the large fuels from the forest will allow more light to encourage regeneration of spruce and birch seedlings. Spruce seedlings and native grasses will be planted on the site where open or scarified patches occur.

The equipment used to treat this forested area consists of manual tree felling by professional sawyers, a forest "mower" which mulches tree limbs on site, and a small excavator to move tree logs and limbs.

- 1** The dense black spruce stand will be thinned and pruned to limit fire spread.
- 2** The parking lot area will be pruned to remove "ladder fuels" which can lead fire into the tree tops.
- 3** The mixed spruce stand will be treated through removing the dead trees, thinning dense pockets of spruce, and pruning the residual healthy trees.

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