



Anchorage Fire Department
Wildfire Mitigation Office
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ANCHORAGE WILDFIRE ACCOMPLISHMENTS • TO DATE March 4, 2003
SUMMARY REPORT SUBMITTED BY SUE RODMAN & MICHELLE WESTON YORK

I. COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE

Roadside Service

2001

- 1135 resident requests in Anchorage
- 135 resident requests in Eagle River
- Media included MOA website, emails, community councils, home owners associations, TV, radio, and direct mailings to approximately 2,000 residents

2002

- 488 resident requests in Anchorage
- 150 resident requests in Eagle River
- 29 resident requests along Turnagain Arm
- Media included MOA & ASWCD websites, emails, community councils, home owners associations, TV, radio, and direct mailings to approximately 14,000 residents

2003

- roadside service discontinued in Anchorage and Eagle River
- requests will be serviced in Turnagain Arm

Wood lots

2001

- Anchorage and Eagle River Wood lots received over 8,000 residential deposits accumulating 3,500 tons of ground material
- Girdwood received chipping service at the community wood lot
- Media included direct mailings to Anchorage and Eagle River residents, MOA & ASWCD websites, AFD burn hotline

2002

- Anchorage received over 3,000 residential deposits accumulating 1,500 tons of material
- Eagle River received 1,176 residential deposits accumulating 449 tons of material
- Girdwood received 20 residential deposits accumulating 6 tons of material
- Media included direct mailings to Anchorage and Eagle River residents, MOA website, AFD burn hotline, and SCA volunteers canvassing homes

2003

- Wood lots will be offered in Anchorage and Eagle River.

AFD-WMO is working with the USFS Sitka Wood Utilization Center to look into long-term solutions for biomass reduction strategies. This research will be included in the Biomass Task Force coordinated through Robert Hall and Sue Rodman.

Neighborhood Fuel Reduction Program

2003

- Cost-share program to assist homeowners with removal of dead trees and also thinning of trees for compliance with vegetation management in the home ignition zone. All documentation is currently being reviewed in Legal; contracts are being processed through Purchasing.

II. PUBLIC EDUCATION CAMPAIGN

Mass media

2001

- Radio and TV ads, bus signs, java jackets, FIREWISE Alaska packets, MOA & ASWCD websites

2002

- Radio and TV ads on all major stations, bus signs, java jackets, FIREWISE Alaska packets, MOA website

2003

- Radio and TV ads on all major stations, bus signs, java jackets, FIREWISE Alaska packets, MOA website AND a 4-page insert in the Anchorage Daily News on Anchorage Wildfire and AFD Fire Prevention for dissemination at the end of March.

Student Conservation Association: Fire Education Corps

2002

- Two 6-member teams on site for 3 months
- Anchorage Team canvassed 956 homes, leaving literature at each site. The team did 135 home evaluations, addressing specific needs to improve defensible space.
- Eagle River Team canvassed 964 homes and conducted 152 home evaluations.
- Both teams attended numerous public events.

2003

- One site leader for 12 months for WMO administrative assistance
- One team leader for 10 months to support the team and lead homeowner education campaign
- One 6-member team for 3 months to conduct homeowner education and home evaluations for defensible space

III. MITIGATION PROJECTS

2001 – 213 acres with mechanized assistance for slash treatment

North Bivouac (Campbell Airstrip Road, FNBP)
Spencer Loop (adjacent to Hilltop, FNBP)
Hilltop (Phase I, Prospect Heights, FNBP)
Little Rabbit Creek Bluff Park (Phase I, Southpark)
Spirit Park (Hiland Road)
Station 8 (AFD)

2002 – 45 acres, all slash burned, no mechanized assistance

Coyote (Abbott Loop Trailhead, FNBP)
Hilltop (Prospect Heights, FNBP)
Bear Valley (Clark's Road, Height's Hill)
Little Rabbit Creek Bluff Park (Southpark)
Jupiter (now Simonian ball field, FNBP)

2003 Tentative List

Ruth Arcand Park (NE corner around homes)
Stuckagain Heights access (Far North Bicentennial Park & Chugach State Park)
Forsythe Park (south and east perimeter)
Bear Valley access (along Jaime, north side)
Birch Park (north, west, south perimeters)

Hills Park

Old Rabbit Creek Park (north perimeter, shoulder of slope near homes)

Little Rabbit Creek Bluff Park (continue work in southern corner)

Campbell Creek Greenbelt and Park (north side of creek, near homes & east)

Kincaid Park (Jodphur area adjacent to road and parking lot)

2003 Additional sites specific to residential developments

South Fork Eagle River: 1D-1-9 Road, Wild Mountain Road, Riverview

Access along Eagle River road – Chugach State Park

Rabbit Creek Canyon

Birch Road/O'Malley area

East of Goldenview.

Girdwood: AFD-WMO advised HLB to conduct forest management activities in Girdwood to sustain forest health.

IV. FUNDING

1999 \$400,000 from FEMA to AFD for wildfire mitigation

2000 \$710,000 from State Fire Assistance to ASWCD for wildfire mitigation

2001 \$1.75 million from USFS State & Private Forestry to MOA/AFD for wildfire preparedness and response

2002 \$5 million from USFS State & Private Forestry to MOA/AFD for community wildfire mitigation programs

2003 \$4.2 million from USFS State & Private Forestry to MOA/AFD for community wildfire mitigation programs