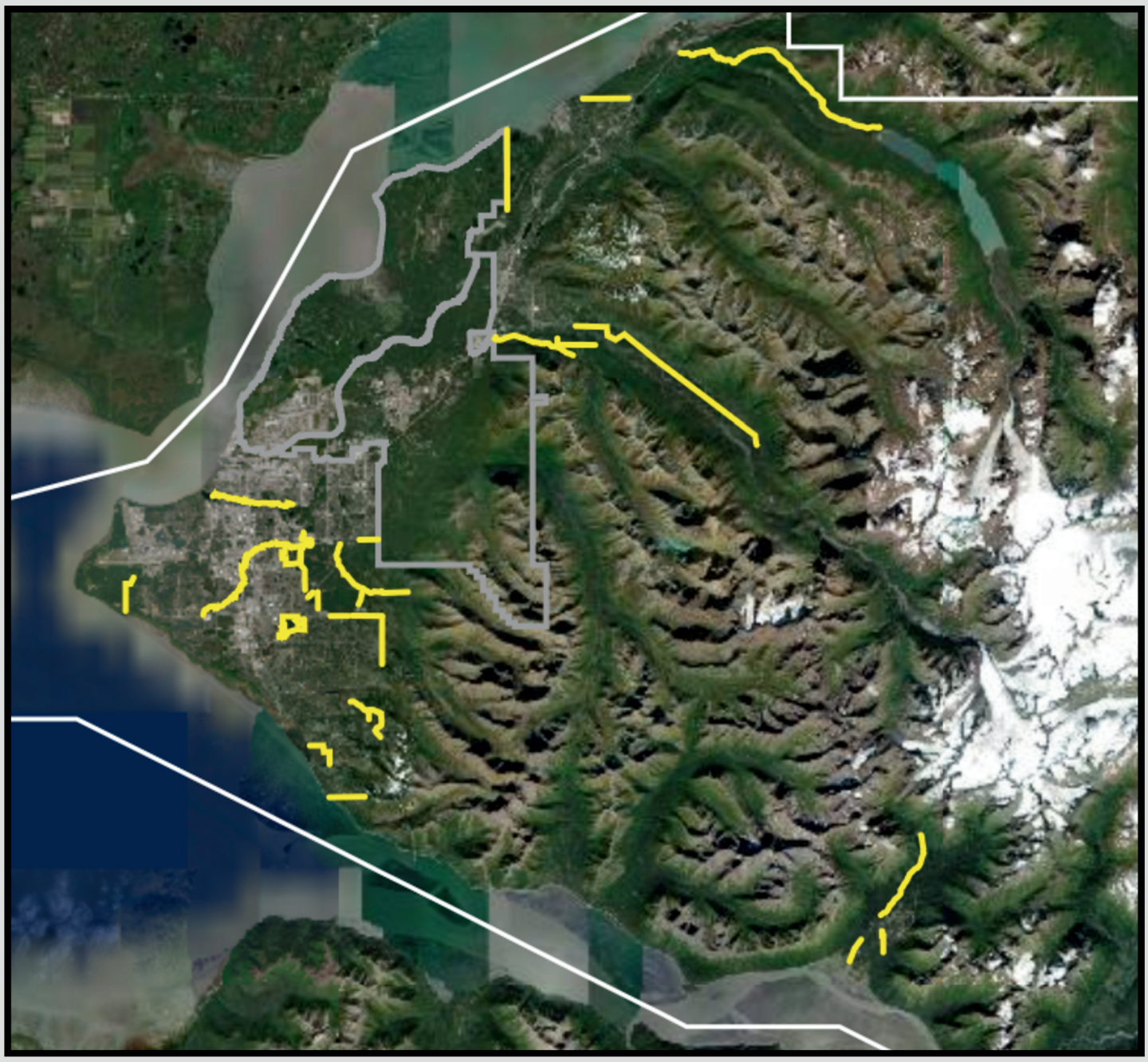
Community WIldfire Protection Plan

Municipality of Anchorage



Appendix D: Mitigation Recommendations

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Detailed Mitigation Recommendations

The following tables outline strategic actions for community groups, land managers, and local, state, and federal agencies to undertake in the short-, mid-, and long-term.

Some activities require minimal financial investment but may require significant shifts in behavior and attitudes toward wildfire risk reduction. Others are more complex and call for community-wide collaboration, shared resources, and the sourcing of funds. Many of these recommendations are ambitious and will require patience and dedication from community members and leaders to achieve lasting improvements.

Contact the MOA for guidance regarding land ownership and approval authority before starting any projects.

Instructions on how to use the table and maps.

1. The table lists mitigation projects for the MOA and community members.
2. The entities generally responsible for either completing or approving the work are listed, but this is subject to change.
3. The list can be used as a guide for future grant applications.

List of Agencies Referenced in this Document

- Municipality of Anchorage (MOA)
- Anchorage Fire Department (AFD)
- Anchorage Parks & Recreation
- Anchorage School District (ASD)
- Anchorage Water and Wastewater Utility (AWWU)
- Chugiak Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department (CVFRD)
- Girdwood Fire and Rescue Department (GFRD)
- State of Alaska Division of Forestry & Fire Protection (AK-DOF)
- Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G)
- Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
- Chugach Electric Association (CEA)
- Chugach State Park

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- Eagle River/Chugiak Parks & Recreation
- Girdwood Parks & Recreation
- Heritage Land Bank (HLB)
- Native Village of Eklutna (NVE)
- Join Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER)
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife
- U.S. Forest Service (USFS)

Figure 6 - Recommended Treatments in the Anchorage Bowl Central AreaFigure 6 - Recommended Treatments in the Anchorage

Special Considerations

Prioritizing and executing wildfire mitigation projects is a multi-faceted process guided by life safety, evacuation and access needs, SPU hazard ratings, and the protection of values and critical infrastructure. Project design also incorporates habitat considerations and community support, coordinated with landowners and land management agencies to ensure implementation is safe, effective, and environmentally sustainable. Ultimately, most projects are funded through grants, and the timing and order of execution are often driven by the availability and award of those funds.

Life-safety of the public and first responders: projects are first prioritized based upon the maximization of lives protected.

Evacuation and suppression agency access routes: many areas of the MOA are affected by limited egress and access opportunities. Protecting and expanding upon evacuation routes are weighed heavily, as this work correlates with life safety.

Protection of critical infrastructure: the federal government identified sixteen critical infrastructure sectors, to include communications, emergency services, energy, healthcare and public health, transportation, and water (see full list here: https://www.cisa.gov/topics/critical-infrastructure-security-and-resilience/critical-infrastructure-sectors).

SPU hazard ratings: the higher the hazard ratings of SPUs treated and protected will generally correlate with a higher priority.

Land ownership: landowners and managers hold ultimate authority over prescribed work occurring on their lands. They play a part in agreeing for work to occur and the scope of the work.

Habitat: 52 mammal species, 230 bird species, and a number of fish species rely upon the habitat afforded throughout the Municipality. Considerations are made through interagency collaboration and best practices to achieve a balance between human life and habitat preservation. Source: https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=anchoragewildlifeplanning.anchorage5#sum

Community support: while community support is not a policy-driven requirement, the fire department would prefer to have support from community members and user groups directly impacted by proposed projects. Forms of support include, but are not limited to formal resolutions of support, public comment, and willingness of community members to contribute to the effects of projects by

performing work to harden homes and the create defensible space on private property. Please review Appendix B to learn more about what property owners can do.

Each one of these recommended treatments involves different collaborators and landowners. For every project, each of these people and organizations should be involved in planning the projects and throughout their implementation.

Heritage Land Bank: Wildland fire fuel reduction has remained an on-going land management priority for Heritage Land Bank since its creation in 1983. This activity not only improves the health and safety of HLB land but surrounding parcels as well. HLB will collaborate with AFD and the affected communities to implement the recommendations within the CWPP.

Municipality of Anchorage Parks and Recreation: Prior to project initiation, the MOA Parks and Recreation Department requests that a public process involves, at minimum, engaging with affected Anchorage Community Councils and approval from the Parks and Recreation Commission. Additionally, consideration and planning should occur to protect wildlife habitat, wetlands, trails and recreational use.

Alaska Department of Fish & Game: The ADF&G is tasked with maintaining, protecting, and improving the natural resources of the State. Each project should involve ADF&G staff in the planning stages to help identify and evaluate critical habitat, movement corridors, and timing windows for wildlife in project areas to minimize impacts on these animals. Projects should start out with the least invasive and destructive methods of clearing or habitat manipulation prior to more invasive methods being considered.

Eagle River/Chugiak Parks and Recreation: Prior to project initiation, Eagle River/Chugiak Parks and Recreation requests a public process involves engaging with affected Chugiak and Eagle River Community Councils and the Eagle River/Chugiak Parks and Recreation Board of Supervisors. Additionally, considerations should be taken to care for habitat, wetlands, and recreational use.

Girdwood Parks and Recreation: Prior to project initiation, Girdwood Parks and Recreation requests a public process be conducted, including engaging with the Girdwood Community Council. Additionally, considerations should be taken to care for habitat, wetlands, and recreational use.

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Area Wide Recommendations

Establish a Community Chipping Program

Establishing a community chipping program would provide significant benefits to residents and is strongly recommended. There are opportunities for both resident-led and municipal-led initiatives, and coordination among interested community councils could help establish designated chipping days and centralized drop-off locations.

Several neighborhoods within the MOA already pool funds to organize their own chipping services, fostering neighborhood cohesion and empowering residents to take direct action toward wildfire risk reduction. Expanding roadside chipping services through contracts with qualified vendors should also be explored.

The Chugach Electric Association has successfully collaborated with the Girdwood Fire and Rescue Department on past chipping efforts, and this partnership should continue and expand. Similar collaborations with other organizations and private companies are encouraged to increase participation and capacity for community-wide chipping events.

Maintain the Community Wood Lot Program

Community and residential fuel reduction efforts generate large volumes of wood waste that must be properly managed. To address this, AFD has partnered with MOA Solid Waste Services to provide free wood lot disposal sites throughout the summer. The program has been well-received, and both agencies have shown a strong commitment to its continuation and growth. Maintaining and expanding this program is important to support ongoing wildfire mitigation efforts across the municipality.

Power Line Corridor Maintenance

The AFD Wildfire Division should continue to work closely Chugach Electric Association and Matanuska Electric Association on maintenance and line clearance intervals. The consistent maintenance work that has been completed by these companies has had a positive impact on the communities; therefore, it is critical to maintain these programs.

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If residents see trees close to or in contact with power lines, they can report them to the danger tree hotline.

- Chugach Electric Association (907) 762-7227
- Matanuska Electric Association 907-746-POWR (7697)

The return cycle to remove brush underneath and within the power line corrido is five years; however, overgrown brush, understory and fallen trees on power lines can present a substantial risk to the AOI.

Investigate Early Detection

In the event of an ignition, early detection systems can be critical to inform first responders and provide the information to properly assess and coordinate aggressive response. The AFD should invest in a remote wildfire detection and response platform leveraging AI-supported satellite imagery, unmanned aerial systems, and other scalable technologies suitable for areas with minimal communications or power infrastructure.

Defensible Space and Structure Hardening for Schools

While most schools within the MOA maintain defensible space and meet structure hardening standards, some still require additional mitigation. Schools are often used by suppression agencies as bases or staging areas for responders during wildfire operations, making proper hardening and maintenance essential for responder safety and operational effectiveness. However, schools can also become traffic congestion points during evacuations if an incident occurs during school hours, as students, staff, and parents converge on campus. For these reasons, it is critical that the public follow evacuation instructions issued by emergency services. See *Appendix B* for additional information on evacuation procedures.

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Regional Areas

The Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) encompasses a complex landscape with diverse communities, environments, and ways of living that influence wildfire mitigation and resilience. Mitigation strategies effective in one area may not be appropriate in another. Conversely, some activities may share similar objectives but require strategies to achieve meaningful wildfire risk reduction.

To address the unique needs and characteristics of each region, recommendations have been divided into three distinct geographic areas, each with its own Regional Recommendations section. Descriptions and considerations for each region's mitigation strategies are detailed below.

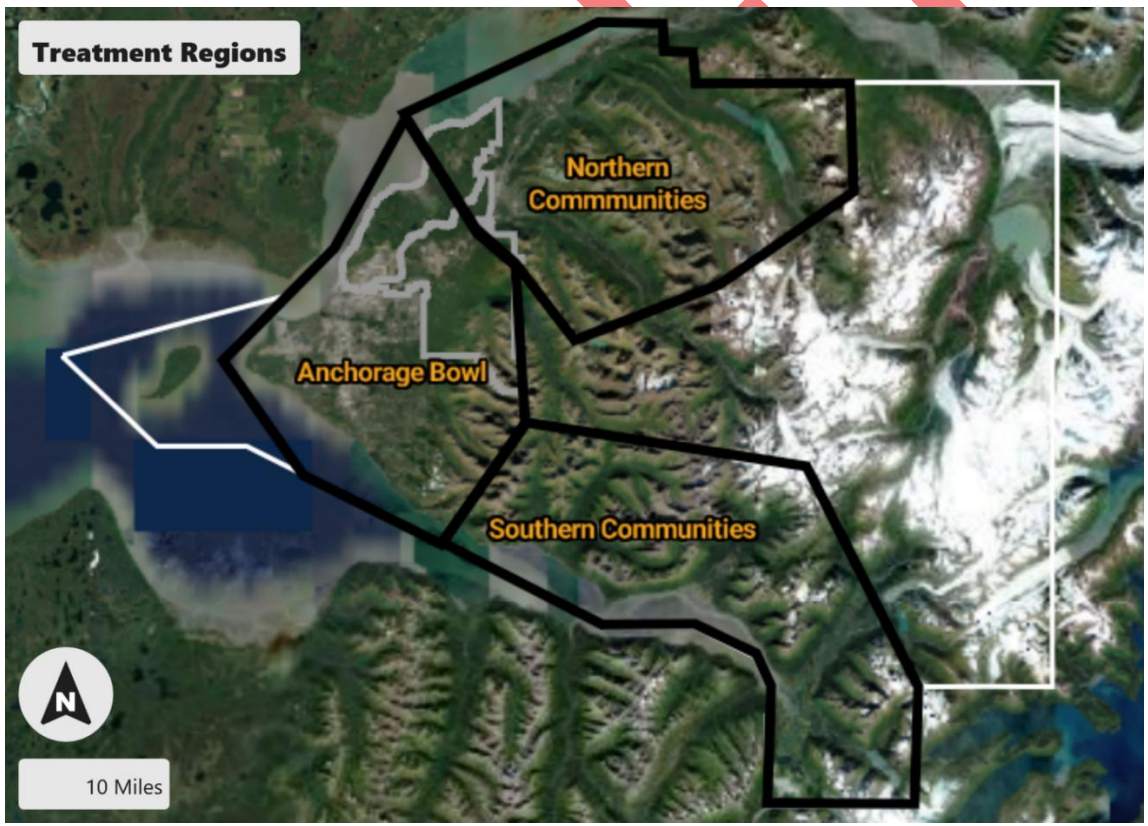

Figure 1 - MOA CWPP Regional Areas

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Northern Communities

The Northern Communities Treatment Region includes areas of development north of the Anchorage Bowl, encompassing Eagle River, Chugiak, Eklutna, and surrounding neighborhoods. This area is served by both CVFRD and AFD, with the jurisdictional boundary located at the North Eagle River Access Road. While most residents live within an established fire service area, some properties remain outside formal coverage zones.

In the event of a wildfire ignition, AFD and CVFRD provide an initial mutual-aid response with a full complement of available resources. For incidents within the CVFRD service area, AFD support depends on resource availability and other concurrent emergencies within the MOA. AK-DOF also supports both initial and extended attack operations. Available DOF resources include air attack platforms, retardant and water-dropping tankers, wildland engines, helicopters and helitack crews, 10-person suppression modules, 20-person hand crews, and incident command leadership.

Parts of the Eklutna Valley present significant communications and access challenges. Cellular and radio coverage can be limited or nonexistent, and water for suppression must often be transported by tender, with one-way travel times taking at least 20 minutes. Eklutna Lake may serve as a potential drafting site. Central Mat-Su Fire Department Station 51 often assists with mutual-aid response. This region would benefit from evaluating and implementing automated early warning and detection systems to improve wildfire detection and resource response times. Cellular coverage also diminishes along Eagle River Road, Eklutna Road, and Hiland Road, which can complicate operations.

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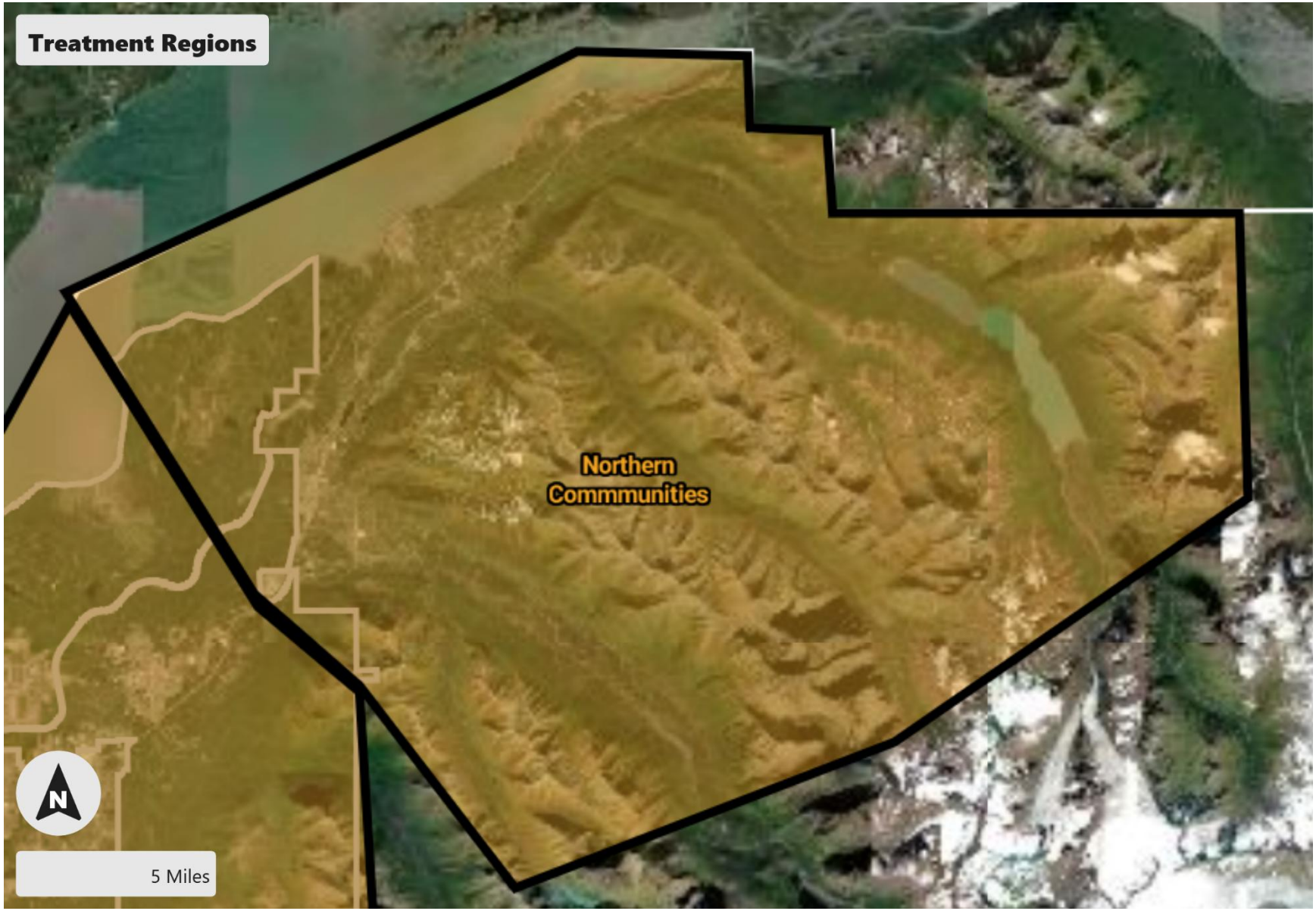

Figure 2 - Northern Communities Map

Appendix D – Mitigation Recommendations

Regional Recommendations

Recommendation	Goals
Fuels reduction and structure hardening of critical infrastructure	Protect critical corridors, clinics, schools, water utility, power, and communications infrastructure.
Increase firefighting capability	Improvements or additions to water supply, response pre-planning by annual pre-attack plan reviews, red card training, and recruiting events.
Apparatus	Acquire additional apparatus and replace and modernize existing equipment. Establish sustainable funding for the maintenance program.
Improve Radio Communications	Improve the radio system to ensure adequate communication in areas around Eklutna Lake, Eagle River and Hiland valleys.
Increase Water Availability	Map dip/draft sites.
Fuel reduction around access/egress corridors	Specific recommendations have been made for primary access and egress corridors, but additional work to ensure safe passage should be completed on smaller corridors as well.

Recommended Treatments - Northern Communities

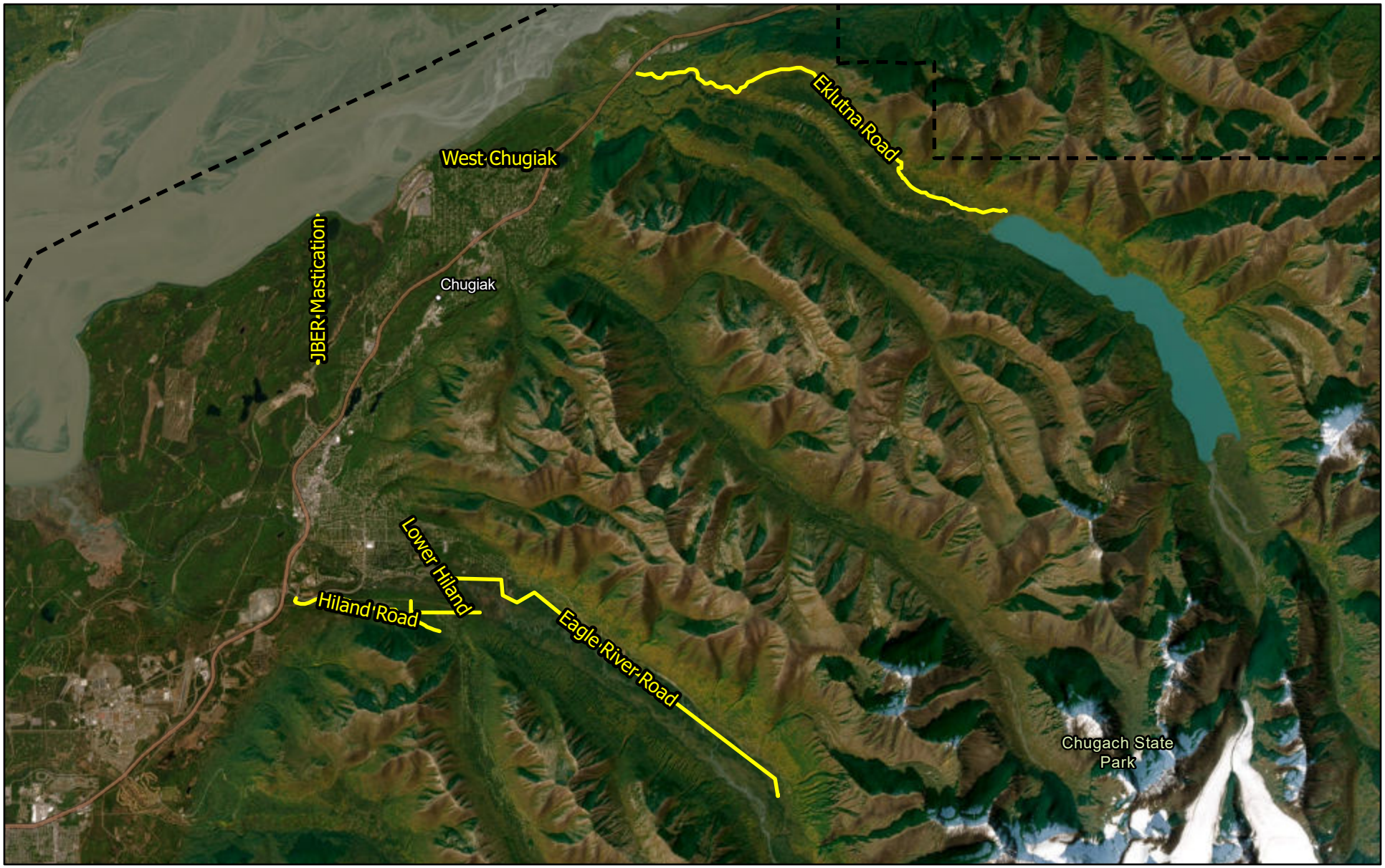

Figure 3 - Recommended Treatments in the Northern Communities

Appendix D – Mitigation Recommendations

Proposed Fuels Reduction Treatments

Name	Description	Method	Maintenance	Landowners & Managers
JBER Mastication	300-foot Shaded Fuel Break & Fire Road Construction	300-foot-wide mechanical removal of standing dead and downed trees, along with low-level fuels up to 8 feet from the ground, will be conducted. In mixed white spruce and hardwood areas, spruce trees under 18 inches DBH will be removed, ladder fuels will be limbed to 8 feet, and hardwoods thinned to achieve approximately 10 feet of crown spacing, forming a shaded fuel break. In black spruce stands, 25-foot clumps will be maintained with 30-50 feet of spacing in a mosaic pattern. The treatment area will also be cleared sufficiently to allow for the construction and maintenance of a standard gravel fire road, ensuring reliable access for suppression resources and equipment.	4-7 years	Alaska Missionary Conference of the United Methodist Church Birchwood Camp, Eagle River/Chugiak Parks & Recreation, Great Land Trust
Lower Hiland	200-foot Shaded Fuel Break	Mechanical removal of standing dead and downed trees, along with low-level fuels up to 8 ft from the ground. In mixed white spruce and hardwood areas, remove spruce trees under 18 in DBH, limb ladder fuels to 8 ft, and thin hardwoods to a 10 ft crown spacing to form a shaded fuel break. In black spruce stands, 25 ft clumps are maintained with 30-50 ft of spacing in a mosaic pattern.	4-7 years	Eklutna, Inc., State of Alaska
West Chugiak	200-foot Shaded Fuel Break	Mechanical removal of standing dead and downed trees, along with low-level fuels up to 8 ft from the ground. In mixed white spruce and hardwood areas, remove spruce trees under 18 in DBH, limb ladder fuels to 8 ft, and thin hardwoods to a 10 ft crown spacing to form a shaded fuel break. In black spruce stands, 25 ft clumps are maintained with 30-50 ft of spacing in a mosaic pattern.	4-7 years	Eklutna, Inc.

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Proposed Roadside Treatments

Name	Description	Method	Maintenance	Landowners & Managers
Eagle River Road	200-foot Shaded Fuel Break	Segments of this treatment are adjacent to Eagle River Road. In these segments, the 200 ft measurement should begin at the centerline of the road. Mechanical removal of standing dead and downed trees, along with low-level fuels up to 8 ft from the ground. In mixed white spruce and hardwood areas, remove spruce trees under 18 in DBH, limb ladder fuels to 8 ft, and thin hardwoods to a 10 ft crown spacing to form a shaded fuel break. In black spruce stands, 25 ft clumps are maintained with 30-50 ft of spacing in a mosaic pattern.	4-7 years	BLM, Eklutna, Inc., State of Alaska, Great Land Trust, 10 private property owners
Eklutna Road	300-foot Shaded Fuel Break	150 feet from centerline on both sides of the road, mechanical removal of standing dead and downed trees, along with low-level fuels up to 8 ft from the ground. In mixed white spruce and hardwood areas, remove spruce trees under 18 in DBH, limb ladder fuels to 8 ft, and thin hardwoods to a 10 ft crown spacing to form a shaded fuel break. In black spruce stands, 25 ft clumps are maintained with 30-50 ft of spacing in a mosaic pattern.	4-7 years	AWWU, BLM, Eklutna, Inc., State of Alaska, 18 Private Property Owners
Hiland Road	300-foot Shaded Fuel Break	150 feet in both directions, from the centerline of the roadway, removal of standing dead and downed trees, along with low-level fuels up to 8 ft from the ground. In mixed white spruce and hardwood areas, remove spruce trees under 18 in DBH, limb ladder fuels to 8 ft, and thin hardwoods to a 10 ft crown spacing to form a shaded fuel break. In black spruce stands, 25 ft clumps are maintained with 30-50 ft of spacing in a mosaic pattern.	4-7 years	Alaska Mental Health Trust, Eklutna, Inc., State of Alaska, 5 Private Property Owners

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Anchorage Bowl

The Anchorage Bowl Treatment Region is the central, and primary population and infrastructure hub of the study area. Some SPUs exist entirely within the Anchorage Fire Service Area, while others are only partially included. This area has generally good cellular communications and adequate water availability. In areas without hydrants, water for firefighting will be delivered by water tenders. Complex urban dynamics, risk introduced by transient populations, dense residential sprawl, overloaded fire fuels, and secluded communities on roads that dead-end in dense fuels are among the principal concerns in this region.

State of Alaska Division of Forestry & Fire Protection resources are available nearby in Palmer for both Initial attack and extended attack, however these resources are dependent on statewide availability. Response times of AK-DOF resources vary, as it has suppression jurisdiction and has the authority to stage apparatus within the municipality, based on condition severity; when staged within the MOA, their response time is comparable to AFD's. Available resources include but are not limited to: Air Attack Platforms, Retardant and water dropping air tankers, wildland fire engines, Helicopters and helitack crews, 10-person suppression modules, 20-person hand crews, Incident commanders and fire line leadership.

The AFD Wildfire Division led a training initiative delivering Evacuation Management for Law Enforcement during APD Fallout Training in 2025, emphasizing how the Incident Command System (ICS) operates during mutual aid events, particularly in managing evacuations. This first of its kind targeted training strengthened interagency communication and understanding between AFD and APD, resulting in improved protocols that enhance coordination, interoperability, and operational efficiency between fire and law enforcement during complex incidents.

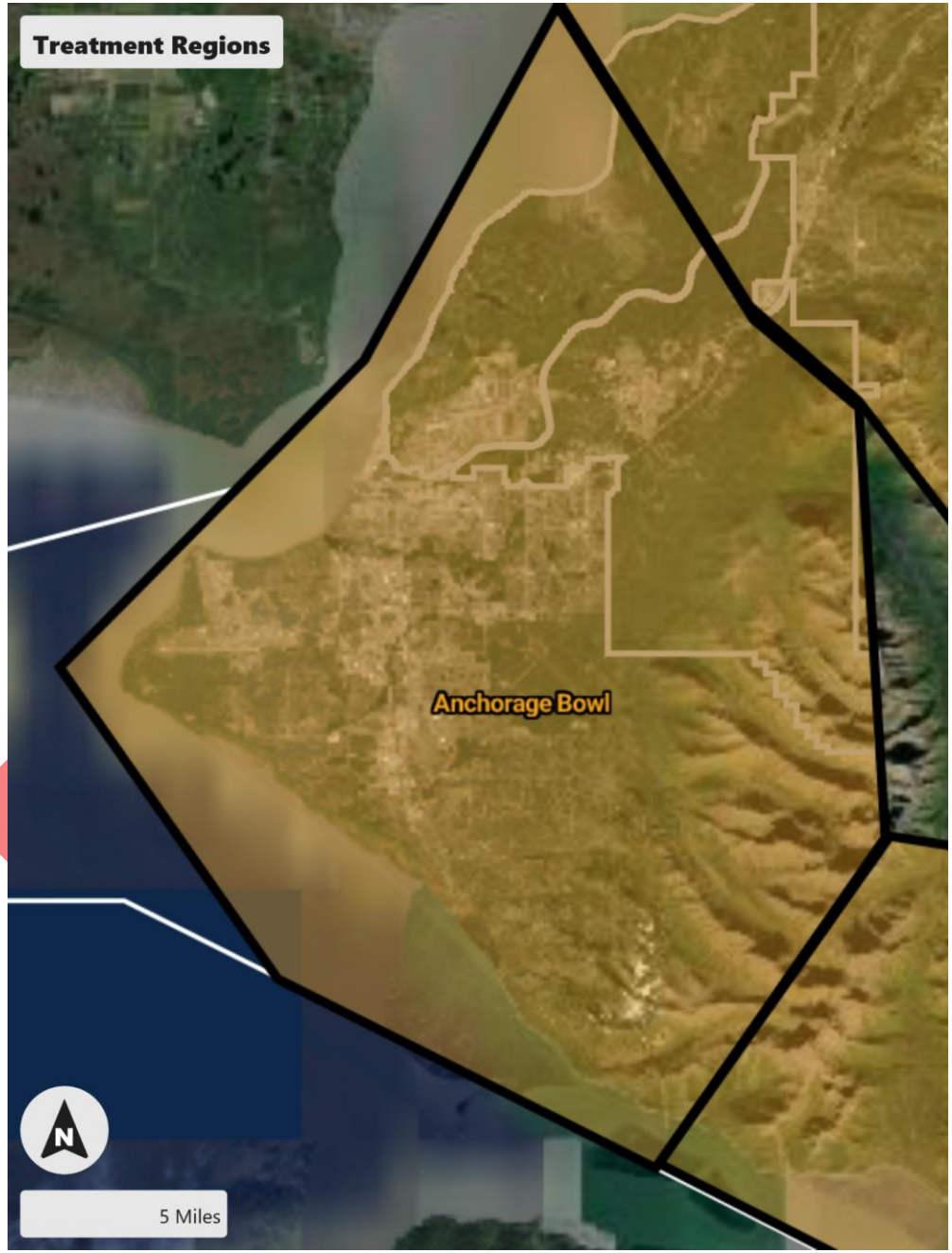

Figure 4 - Anchorage Bowl Map

Appendix D – Mitigation Recommendations

Regional Recommendations

Recommendation	Goals
Fuels reduction and structure hardening of critical infrastructure	Protect critical corridors, clinics, schools, water utility, power, and communications infrastructure.
Increase firefighting capability	Annual pre-incident planning, continued red card training, expansion of wildland firefighting qualifications.
Apparatus	Establish sustainable funding for the modernization and maintenance program.
Improve Radio Communications	Improve the radio system to ensure adequate communication in areas around Eklutna Lake, Eagle River and Hiland valleys.
Increase Water Availability	Collaborate with AWWU to establish a water supply strategy to add hydrants in wildfire-prone areas.
Fuel reduction around access/egress corridors	Specific recommendations have been made for primary access and egress corridors, but additional work to ensure safe passage should be completed on smaller corridors as well. Adding secondary routes should also be investigated.

Recommended Treatments - Anchorage Bowl

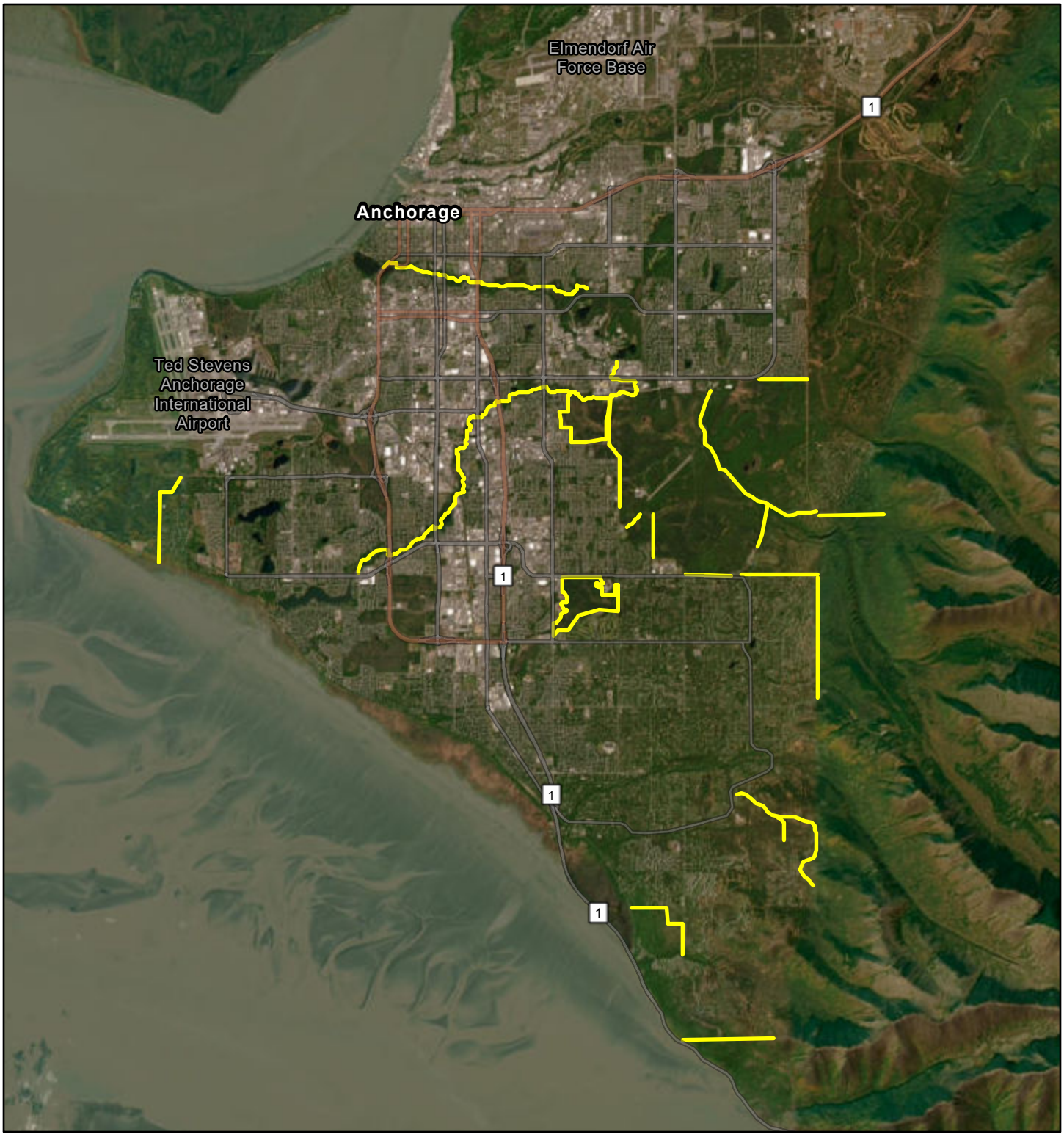

Figure 5 - Recommended Treatments in the Anchorage Bowl

Recommended Treatments - Anchorage Bowl

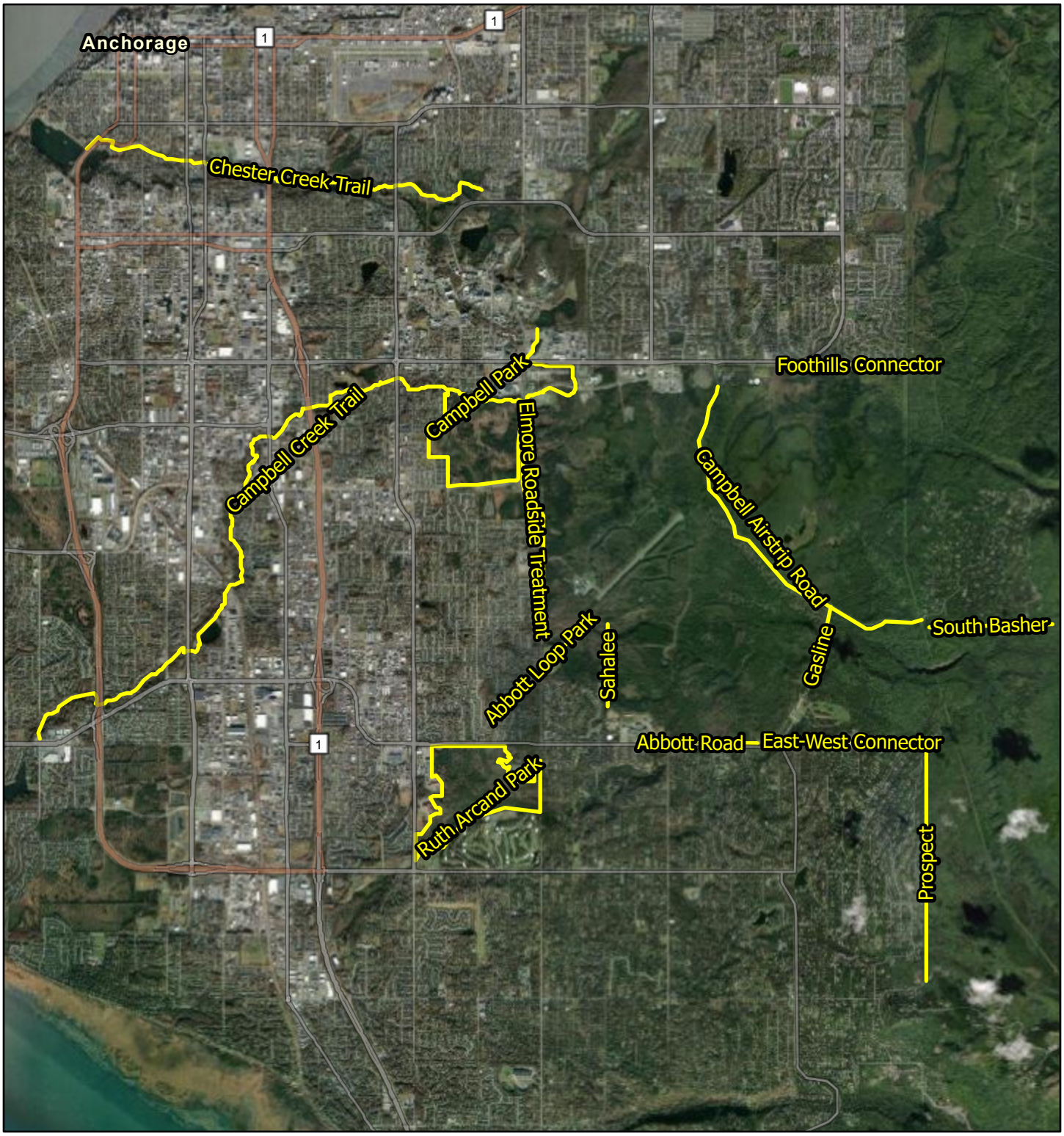

Figure 6 - Recommended Treatments in the Anchorage Bowl Central Area

Recommended Treatments - Anchorage Bowl

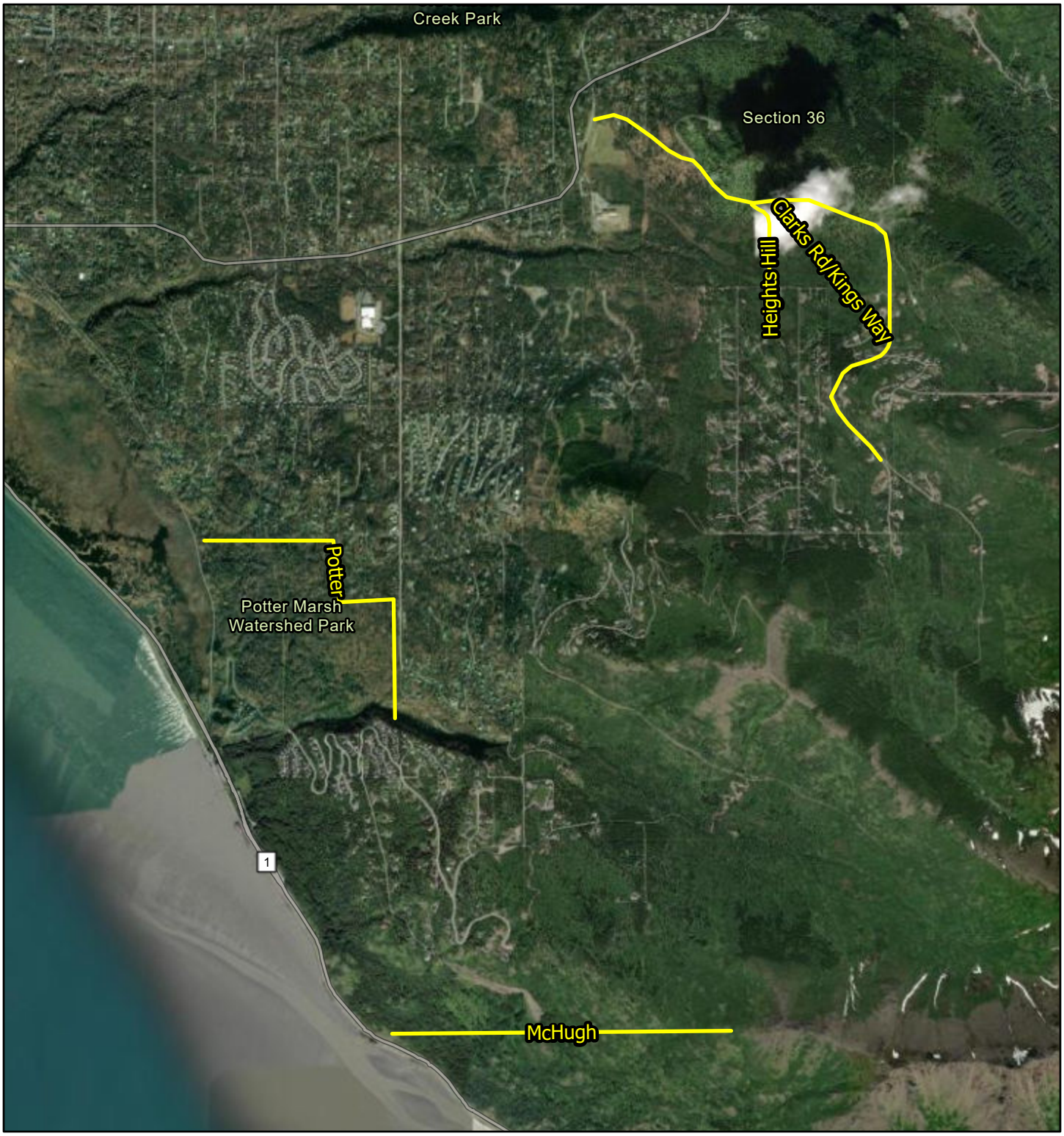

Figure 7 - Recommended Treatments in the Anchorage Bowl Southern Area

Recommended Treatments - Anchorage Bowl

Figure 8 - Recommended Treatments in the Anchorage Bowl Western Area

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Proposed Fuels Reduction Treatments

Name	Description	Method	Maintenance	Landowners & Managers
Abbott Loop Park	150-foot Shaded Fuel Break	75 feet from trail centerline, a combination of hand and mechanical removal of standing dead and downed trees, along with low-level fuels up to 8 ft from the ground. In mixed white spruce and hardwood areas, remove spruce trees under 18 in DBH, limb ladder fuels to 8 ft, and thin hardwoods to a 10 ft crown spacing to form a shaded fuel break. In black spruce stands, 25 ft clumps are maintained with 30-50 ft of spacing in a mosaic pattern.	4-7 years	MOA Parks & Recreation
Campbell Creek Trail	150-foot Shaded Fuel Break	Targeted fuel reduction to create defensible buffer 75-feet from centerline, on both sides of the trail. Selective thinning of black spruce, preservation of healthy birch, limbing of conifers, removal of ladder fuels, treatment of debris, minimize disturbance, follow best practices for wildfire mitigation and align with municipal standards for defensible space and public land stewardship	4-7 years	Heritage Land Bank, MOA Parks & Recreation, Great Land Trust
Campbell Park	200-foot Shaded Fuel Break	Mechanical removal of standing dead and downed trees, along with low-level fuels up to 8 ft from the ground. In mixed white spruce and hardwood areas, remove spruce trees under 18 in DBH, limb ladder fuels to 8 ft, and thin hardwoods to a 10 ft crown spacing to form a shaded fuel break. In black spruce stands, 25 ft clumps are maintained with 30-50 ft of spacing in a mosaic pattern. Campbell Creek trail serves as a centerline for the northern boundary of this treatment.	4-7 years	Heritage Land Bank, MOA Parks & Recreation

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Name	Description	Method	Maintenance	Landowners & Managers
Chester Creek Trail	150-foot Shaded Fuel Break	Targeted fuel reduction to create defensible buffer 75-feet from centerline, on both sides the trail. Selective thinning of black spruce, preservation of healthy birch, limbing of conifers, removal of ladder fuels, treatment of debris, minimize disturbance, follow best practices for wildfire mitigation and align with municipal standards for defensible space and public land stewardship	4-7 years	MOA Parks & Recreation, State of Alaska
Foothills Connector	200-foot Shaded Fuel Break	Mechanical removal of standing dead and downed trees, along with low-level fuels up to 8 ft from the ground. In mixed white spruce and hardwood areas, remove spruce trees under 18 in DBH, limb ladder fuels to 8 ft, and thin hardwoods to a 10 ft crown spacing to form a shaded fuel break. In black spruce stands, 25 ft clumps are maintained with 30-50 ft of spacing in a mosaic pattern.	4-7 years	MOA Parks & Recreation
Gasline	200-foot Shaded Fuel Break	Combination of hand and mechanical removal of standing dead and downed trees, along with low-level fuels up to 8 ft from the ground. In mixed white spruce and hardwood areas, remove spruce trees under 18 in DBH, limb ladder fuels to 8 ft, and thin hardwoods to a 10 ft crown spacing to form a shaded fuel break. In black spruce stands, 25 ft clumps are maintained with 30-50 ft of spacing in a mosaic pattern.	4-7 years	MOA Parks & Recreation
McHugh	200-foot Shaded Fuel Break	Mechanical removal of standing dead and downed trees, along with low-level fuels up to 8 ft from the ground. In mixed white spruce and hardwood areas, remove spruce trees under 18 in DBH, limb ladder fuels to 8 ft, and thin hardwoods to a 10 ft crown spacing to form a shaded fuel break. In black spruce stands, 25 ft clumps are maintained with 30-50 ft of spacing in a mosaic pattern.	4-7 years	State of Alaska

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Name	Description	Method	Maintenance	Landowners & Managers
Potter	200-foot Shaded Fuel Break	Mechanical removal of standing dead and downed trees, along with low-level fuels up to 8 ft from the ground. In mixed white spruce and hardwood areas, remove spruce trees under 18 in DBH, limb ladder fuels to 8 ft, and thin hardwoods to a 10 ft crown spacing to form a shaded fuel break. In black spruce stands, 25 ft clumps are maintained with 30-50 ft of spacing in a mosaic pattern.	4-7 years	AWWU, Heritage Land Bank, MOA Parks & Recreation, Great Land Trust
Prospect	200-foot Shaded Fuel Break	Mechanical removal of standing dead and downed trees, along with low-level fuels up to 8 ft from the ground. In mixed white spruce and hardwood areas, remove spruce trees under 18 in DBH, limb ladder fuels to 8 ft, and thin hardwoods to a 10 ft crown spacing to form a shaded fuel break. In black spruce stands, 25 ft clumps are maintained with 30-50 ft of spacing in a mosaic pattern.	4-7 years	State of Alaska
Ruth Arcand Park	200-foot Shaded Fuel Break	Along the perimeter of Ruth Arcand Park, create a 200' wide shaded fuel break through mechanical removal of standing dead and downed trees, along with low-level fuels up to 8 ft from the ground. In mixed white spruce and hardwood areas, remove spruce trees under 18 in DBH, limb ladder fuels to 8 ft, and thin hardwoods to a 10 ft crown spacing to form a shaded fuel break. In black spruce stands, 25 ft clumps are maintained with 30-50 ft of spacing in a mosaic pattern.	4-7 years	MOA Parks & Recreation
Sahalee	200-foot Shaded Fuel Break	Mechanical removal of standing dead and downed trees, along with low-level fuels up to 8 ft from the ground. In mixed white spruce and hardwood areas, remove spruce trees under 18 in DBH, limb ladder fuels to 8 ft, and thin hardwoods to a 10 ft crown spacing to form a shaded fuel break. In black spruce stands, 25 ft clumps are maintained with 30-50 ft of spacing in a mosaic pattern.	4-7 years	MOA Parks & Recreation

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Name	Description	Method	Maintenance	Landowners & Managers
Sand Dunes	200-foot Shaded Fuel Break	Mechanical removal of standing dead and downed trees, along with low-level fuels up to 8 ft from the ground. In mixed white spruce and hardwood areas, remove spruce trees under 18 in DBH, limb ladder fuels to 8 ft, and thin hardwoods to a 10 ft crown spacing to form a shaded fuel break. In black spruce stands, 25 ft clumps are maintained with 30-50 ft of spacing in a mosaic pattern.	4-7 years	MOA Parks & Recreation
South Basher	200-foot Retreatment	Mechanical removal of standing dead and downed trees, along with low-level fuels up to 8 ft from the ground. In mixed white spruce and hardwood areas, remove spruce trees under 18 in DBH, limb ladder fuels to 8 ft, and thin hardwoods to a 10 ft crown spacing to form a shaded fuel break. In black spruce stands, 25 ft clumps are maintained with 30-50 ft of spacing in a mosaic pattern.	4-7 years	State of Alaska

Fuels Reduction Retreatments

Name	Description	Method	Maintenance	Landowners & Managers
East-West Connector	200-foot Retreatment	Mechanical Retreatment, of 2025 fuel treatment, removal of standing dead and downed trees, along with low-level fuels up to 8 ft from the ground. In mixed white spruce and hardwood areas, remove spruce trees under 18 in DBH, limb ladder fuels to 8 ft, and thin hardwoods to a 10 ft crown spacing to form a shaded fuel break. In black spruce stands, 25 ft clumps are maintained with 30-50 ft of spacing in a mosaic pattern.	4-7 years	MOA Parks & Recreation, State of Alaska

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Proposed Roadside Treatments

Name	Description	Method	Maintenance	Landowners & Managers
Abbott Road	175-foot Shaded Fuel Break	175' from centerline on the north side of Abbott Road: mechanical removal of standing dead and downed trees, along with low-level fuels up to 8 ft from the ground. In mixed white spruce and hardwood areas, remove spruce trees under 18 in DBH, limb ladder fuels to 8 ft, and thin hardwoods to a 10 ft crown spacing to form a shaded fuel break. In black spruce stands, 25 ft clumps are maintained with 30-50 ft of spacing in a mosaic pattern.	4-7 years	MOA Parks & Recreation
Clarks Rd/Kings Way	300-foot Shaded Fuel Break	150 feet in both directions, from the centerline of the roadway, mechanical removal of standing dead and downed trees, along with low-level fuels up to 8 ft from the ground. In mixed white spruce and hardwood areas, remove spruce trees under 18 in DBH, limb ladder fuels to 8 ft, and thin hardwoods to a 10 ft crown spacing to form a shaded fuel break. In black spruce stands, 25 ft clumps are maintained with 30-50 ft of spacing in a mosaic pattern. *Special Considerations: If there is opportunity and funding, this fire break could be extended further south into HLB parcel 2-139.*	4-7 years	Heritage Land Bank, MOA Parks & Recreation, Great Land Trust, 50 Private Property Owners
Elmore Roadside Treatment	200-foot Shaded Fuel Break	On the east side of the road, 200' from centerline, mechanical removal of standing dead and downed trees, along with low-level fuels up to 8 ft from the ground. In mixed white spruce and hardwood areas, remove spruce trees under 18 in DBH, limb ladder fuels to 8 ft, and thin hardwoods to a 10 ft crown spacing to form a shaded fuel break. In black spruce stands, 25 ft clumps are maintained with 30-50 ft of spacing in a mosaic pattern.	4-7 years	BLM, Heritage Land Bank, MOA Street Maintenance

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Name	Description	Method	Maintenance	Landowners & Managers
Heights Hill	150-foot Retreatment	Mechanical Retreatment, of 2025 fuel treatment, 150 feet to the east from the centerline of the roadway, removal of standing dead and downed trees, along with low-level fuels up to 8 ft from the ground. In mixed white spruce and hardwood areas, remove spruce trees under 18 in DBH, limb ladder fuels to 8 ft, and thin hardwoods to a 10 ft crown spacing to form a shaded fuel break. In black spruce stands, 25 ft clumps are maintained with 30-50 ft of spacing in a mosaic pattern.	4-7 years	Heritage Land Bank

Roadside Retreatments

Name	Description	Method	Maintenance	Landowners & Managers
Campbell Airstrip Road	300-foot Retreatment	Mechanical Retreatment, of 2025 fuel treatment, 150 feet from centerline on both sides of the road, maintaining specification of removal of standing dead and downed trees, along with low-level fuels up to 8 ft from the ground. In mixed white spruce and hardwood areas, remove spruce trees under 18 in DBH, limb ladder fuels to 8 ft, and thin hardwoods to a 10 ft crown spacing to form a shaded fuel break. In black spruce stands, 25 ft clumps are maintained with 30-50 ft of spacing in a mosaic pattern.	4-7 years	Heritage Land Bank, MOA Parks & Recreation

Appendix D – Mitigation Recommendations

Southern Communities

The Southern Communities Treatment Region encompasses areas of development south of the Anchorage bowl, including the Turnagain Arm communities, Girdwood, and Portage. This region is vastly different from others in this study in terms of fuels, topography, climate and distance from mutual aid resources. This area is split between multi-generational homesteads and industry mainstays like Indian Valley Meats, Turnagain Fish Company, and other small businesses. The community of Girdwood is amid a rapid shift from generational single-family ownership to new development, second-home owners, and tourist accommodations. The large number of planned development projects presents an extraordinary opportunity to update infrastructure and expand adequate utility coverage.[1]

Pre-plans for emergency evacuation from the resort area via Alyeska Highway to the intersection at Seward Highway were investigated by Girdwood Fire and Rescue Department in 2023. These plans and their findings should be revisited and integrated into updates of Anchorage's Comprehensive Emergency Operations Plan (CEOP).

State of Alaska Division of Forestry & Fire Protection resources are available for both Initial attack and extended attack. Resources include but are not limited to: Air Attack Platforms, Retardant and water dropping air tankers, wildland fire engines, Helicopters and helitack crews, 10-person suppression modules, 20-person hand crews, Incident commanders and fire line leadership.

[1] https://anchoragechamber.chambermaster.com/news/details/alyeska-resort-receives-greenlight-for-new-ski-village-project-06-14-2024

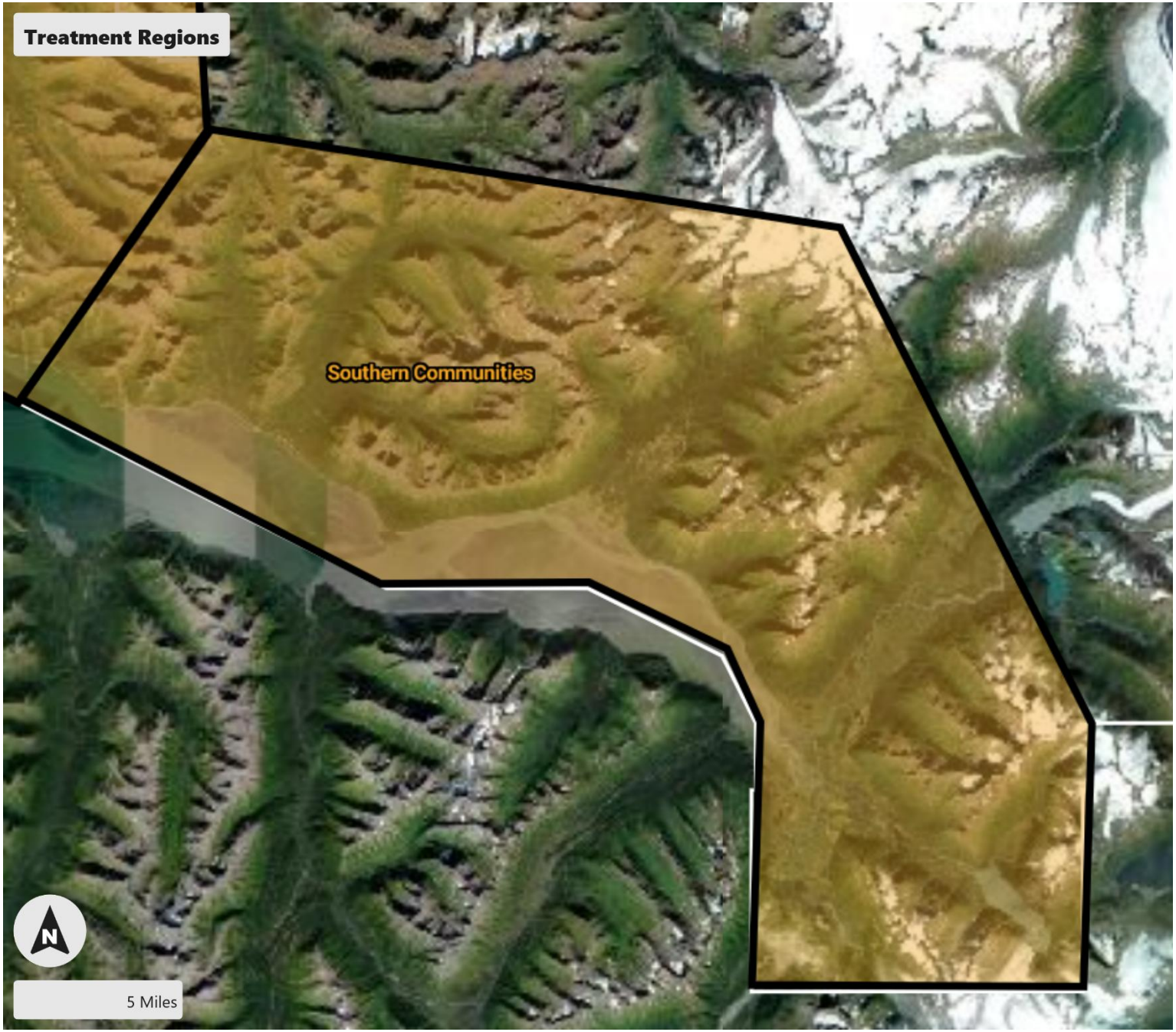

Figure 9 - Southern Communities

Appendix D – Mitigation Recommendations

Regional Recommendations

Recommendation	Goals
Fuels reduction and structure hardening of critical infrastructure	Protect critical corridors, clinics, and schools, water utility, power, and communications infrastructure.
Increase firefighting capability	Improvements, hydrants and additions to water supply, response pre-planning by annual pre-attack plan reviews, red card training, recruiting events.
Apparatus Improvement	Update apparatus and create a modernization and maintenance program.
Improve Radio Communications	Improve radio system for adequate communication.
Encourage Emergency Notification Sign Up	Create and maintain an education campaign encouraging tourists/vacationers and resort patrons to sign up for emergency notification systems during their time in Alaska.
Bolster Evacuation Preparedness	Institute protocols & fire drills for residents and tourism-based businesses.

Recommended Treatments - Southern Communities

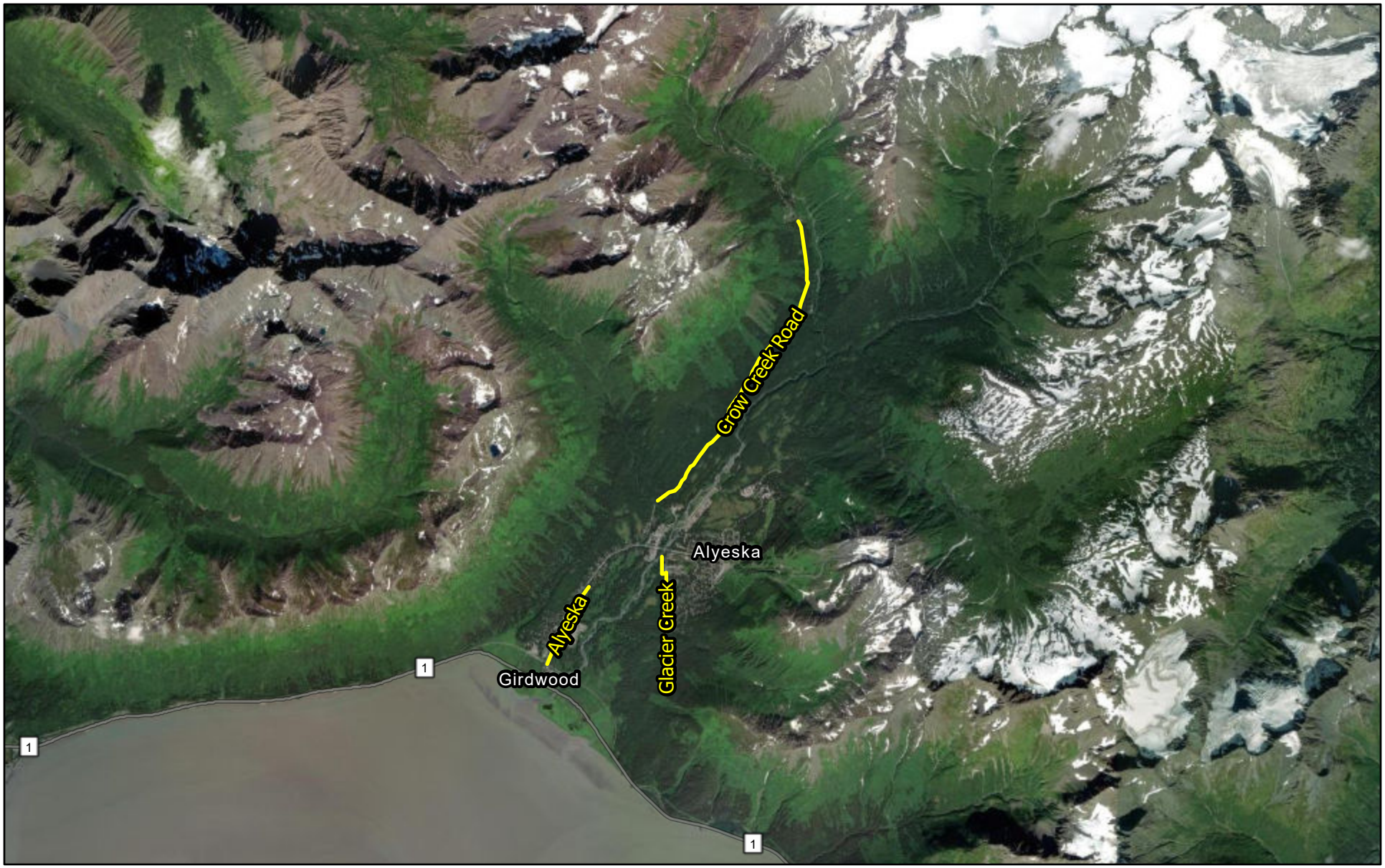

Figure 10 - Recommended Treaments for the Southern Communities

Appendix D – Mitigation Recommendations

Proposed Fuels Reduction Treatments

Name	Description	Method	Maintenance	Landowners & Managers
Glacier Creek	300-foot Shaded Fuel Break	Within 150 feet from private property lines, Mechanical removal of standing dead and downed trees, along with low-level fuels up to 8 ft from the ground. In mixed white spruce and hardwood areas, remove spruce trees under 18 in DBH, limb ladder fuels to 8 ft, and thin hardwoods to a 10 ft crown spacing to form a shaded fuel break. In black spruce stands, 25 ft clumps are maintained with 30-50 ft of spacing in a mosaic pattern. *Special Considerations: The majority of this land is within Heritage Land Bank (HLB) inventory (Parcels 6-057F and 6-039). Land north of Ruane Rd is intended to be developed for mixed-residential use along Alyeska Hwy. Because of that, the retention of mature Sitka Spruce and Cottonwoods is paramount in that area to bolster the success of the residential development. HLB would be prefer a more conservative fuel reduction treatment that focuses on select cutting, limbing and thinning of ground vegetation, rather than full 150ft mastication. HLB would defer preference on clearing of vegetation along Alyeska Hwy south of Ruane Rd to Girdwood Valley Service Area, Girdwood Board of Supervisors and the Girdwood Fire Chief.*	4-7 years	Heritage Land Bank (Parcels 6-057F & 6-039), Great Land Trust

Appendix D – Mitigation Recommendations

Proposed Roadside Treatments

Name	Description	Method	Maintenance	Landowners & Managers
Alyeska	200-foot Shaded Fuel Break	On the east side of the road, 200' from centerline, mechanical removal of standing dead and downed trees, along with low-level fuels up to 8 ft from the ground. In mixed white spruce and hardwood areas, remove spruce trees under 18 in DBH, limb ladder fuels to 8 ft, and thin hardwoods to a 10 ft crown spacing to form a shaded fuel break. In black spruce stands, 25 ft clumps are maintained with 30-50 ft of spacing in a mosaic pattern.	4-7 years	AWWU, Heritage Land Bank, US Forest Service
Crow Creek Road	300-foot Shaded Fuel Break & Road infrastructure improvement	Increase road maintenance/resurface intervals. 150' from centerline on both sides of the road, mechanical removal of standing dead and downed trees, along with low-level fuels up to 8 ft from the ground. In mixed white spruce and hardwood areas, remove spruce trees under 18 in DBH, limb ladder fuels to 8 ft, and thin hardwoods to a 10 ft crown spacing to form a shaded fuel break. In black spruce stands, 25 ft clumps are maintained with 30-50 ft of spacing in a mosaic pattern.	4-7 years	Anchorage School District, Heritage Land Bank, USDA-Chugach National Forest

Recommended Action Items - Southern Communities

Figure 11 - Recommended Action Items for the Southern Communities

Appendix D – Mitigation Recommendations

Other Action Items

Name	Description
Girdwood Water Availability	20,000-gallon water cistern
Indian Creek Water Availability	20,000-gallon water cistern
Rainbow Emergency Water Availability	Investigate, test and maintain water system
Upper Crow Creek Water Availability	20,000-gallon water cistern