



Group Discussion: Fuels Forum

- What fuels related projects are going on in your area or zone?
- What are the goals/objectives of your project(s)?
- What have you learned that would be useful or interesting to others?

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- Steve Hepner – Galkana. Putting in fuel breakings and utilizing material for making pellets (black sp, white, grass)
- Kenai Pen Borough Sp Bark Beetle Office funded research project on calam. treatment. Goal to look at treatments that are economical that the public can use to treat calam. on their property. Treatments: mowing, weed-whacker, herbicide, mulching mech treatment. Burned in each transect previously treated with herbicide, will re-burn next year. Will monitor for re-growth. With share results when ready.
- Moose Research Center, Kenai Refuge. Type conversion in spruce and hardwood stands to regenerate moose habitat. Funded out of refuge funds. \$250K, 120 ac. Clearing. Burned hardwood piles. Broadcast burning remainder of blocks next summer. For Habitat regeneration and wildlife viewing
- Caribou Hills Fire. 2007. Steve Heppner. Treatment. Zero survival rate. Calam. Come back thick – 6'high.
- Effort to add fuels treatment as layer in ARCGIS. Dropped as low priority. Bring to GIS task group to re-instate. Marsha Henderson – would be nice to have one place where you can go and see what has been done.

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- Deb Cooper got a map and website up. Avail through AICC? Fuels or research layer?
- Will Putman. TCC. Tanacross Project 1st exposure. BIA funded additional similar village projects. Have worked in ~9 other. Healy Lake, Dot Lake, Alatna, Hughes, Minto, Allakaket, Nickoli, etc. Mostly ~30acres. Standard format based on Tanacross Project. Shaded fuel break immediately adjacent to community. Tie to anchor points (air strips, rivers, etc). Contract with village council. VC hires crew, TCC provides training (chain saw, etc). Would like to coordinate with EFF chainsaw training (not yet pulled off). Have spend ~\$1mill. Most funds go directly into villages to fire workers. Economic stimulus in villages. At least as much as an economic development project in villages as fuel break. Have talked about contracting with fire crews. Yet that runs into issues of local hire in village.
- NIPCORS. National Fire Plan Reporting and Operating System, Boise.
- Steve Heppner. Also look at dumps to make sure they are safe.
- Require villages to insure workers with workman's comp. etc. Jobs getting classified as logging with very high insurance rates. High costs. Now successfully resolved. Running through as two contracts, one for slash.
- Clinton Northway. Have also done treatments around cultural sites, ie. Cemeteries.
- Could use list that has been prioritized ahead of time. CWPP, now getting \$ from BIA to draft them

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- Tom Kurth. CWPP. Arlene has CWPP list. Could make new connection with GIS folks. Mary Lynch can make that happen.
- Doesn't fuels committee have that stuff?
- Pursue place to put all this information. Jen N.
- Steve H. Have fuel breaks around a lot of villages.
- Kenai. – Chugatchmuit. FireWise fuel reduction around individual properties to make them more defensible. Nanwallick (sp?) across K. Bay from Homer.
- Military land. Have done chipping, effect of chips on fire. Mastication, other treatments. Need to look at soils and plants on site. FireWise doesn't fit in all places at all times.
- Need more research.
- Re management techniques. Timber harvest has impacted fire. Timber sales have served as fuel break. Also cleared 75K acres to agricultural land. Also good fuel break.
- Sheer blade encourages hardwood occupation.
- If you disturb forest, will have shift to mixed forest.
- Eric Geisler. New pellet plant on line in NP. Looking for 40K tons/annual. Opportunity. Spruce, aspen, mix. Chad Schumaker, Superior Pellet Fuels, Cobb Rd. Down from Badger OP.

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- Spring burnign on military land. Fuels module. People can come out. Next year – will meet with managers and Army in Nov – dictated by training load. Nat'l office will determine funding.
- Robert Schmoll. Alaska Energy Authority, DOF, Rural Lands Dept, Economic Devel., CCHRC. Bioharvester – collection shoot on trailer to utilize biomass. \$285K cost. Looking at doing fuels treatment in combination. Looking at spring treatment on Borough land. Funds from Borough and FEDC. Trying to get economy of scale with fuels mitigation and biomass – and get to superior pellets. Need certain mix of aspen, spruce, birch. Doug Hensen doing biomass calculations. Will need to section out based on t/acre. Alaska Energy Authority has funds.
- Andy, NPS fuels tech. Backcountry cabins. Wrangell's HQ defensible space. Interagency partners, pile burning and cutting on projects.
- Larry Adams, BIA. Working in Galkana, Gaukona, Tazlina, Chitna, Upper Lower Kalskag, Sleetemute, Red Devil, Ekok, Kokanok (sp??), (Lake Illiamna), Tanacross, Northway, Dillingham (btw. Aleknagik), Nanilchik, McCarthy Rd., Steven's Village, Napiemute (sp??). Cooperated w/ FWS in Hughes.