



## **SPRUCE BARK BEETLE PROGRAM NARRATIVE FY 2008 FUNDING: PHASE VI PROGRAM OUTLINE DESCRIPTION**

Following is a brief description of the plan for spending the **\$984,000** cost share grant recently appropriated to the Kenai Peninsula Borough (KPB) by Congress for funding activities to mitigate severe fire danger in areas adjacent to KPB communities. These funds, to be equally matched by current Spruce Bark Beetle Mitigation Program funds, will be spent in a manner consistent with the congressional language accompanying the federal appropriation. Following is the intent for use of these grant funds.

### **1. Hazard Tree Removal \$673,640**

**Objective:** To remove hazardous fuels from access/egress routes, public use areas, KPB parcels in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI), and from within the defensible space zone around public buildings and private homes.

**Milestone schedule for completion:** To clear 400 acres/year including 40 miles of rights-of-way/year to reduce threats to peninsula communities and roads from hazardous fuels.

**Project activities:**

- *Continue right-of-way projects* –Remove hazard trees adjacent to Peninsula roads using private contractors to ensure ingress/egress during an emergency event.
- *Public Use Areas* –Remove hazard trees and fuels from publicly used areas using private contractors. Treatment areas include State parks, campgrounds, beach accesses, KPB parcels containing hazard trees within the WUI, city parks throughout the Borough, schools, potential emergency shelters, clinics, and assisted living homes.
- *Support State Division of Forestry (DOF) Defensible Space Cost-Share Program:* Provide funds for DOF’s homeowner’s grant to cost-share contractor costs for defensible space work.

## 2. Seasonal Fire Crew Support and Training \$206,080

**Objective:** To support initial attack seasonal fire fighting personnel on the Kenai Peninsula, to support training exercises/simulations for Kenai Peninsula Wildfire Suppression Agencies, and to complete hazard tree removal work and outreach education projects using seasonal fire crew personnel.

**Milestone schedule for completion:** To provide funding 4 weeks/year during critical high fire danger for seasonal fire crew thru FY11, provide funding support for wildfire suppression/training exercises

**Project Activities:**

- *Provide initial attack support for wildfires on the Kenai Peninsula* (wildfire suppression agencies respond to over 60 wildfire starts per year on the Peninsula).
- *Collaborate with appropriate Peninsula and State agencies to conduct wildfire suppression/training exercise FY2009.*
- *Reduce hazardous fuels from public areas using seasonal fire crews.*

## 3. Public Education/FireWise Training \$104,280

**Objective:** To support DOF work on public wildfire education and defensible space projects through presentation of FireWise information

**Milestone schedule for completion:** To provide continuous/annual support for Firewise education on the Kenai Peninsula in cooperation with DOF Fire Education and SBB Program outreach and to hold public Firewise workshops FY09 and FY11.

**Project Activities:**

- *Support to DOF Firewise Education:* Provide funding support for DOF Firewise Educational on the Kenai Peninsula for 2 seasons.
- *Hold Firewise Fire Education Workshops:* Hold public workshops during early spring FY09 and FY11 at two separate locations.
- *Provide FireWise Education:* Provide educational outreach at public events including local health fairs, home shows, and Ninilchik State Fair

**\$984,000 Grant funds to be used for spruce bark beetle infestation.  
 Kenai Peninsula Borough- Spruce Bark Beetle Mitigation program (KPB-SBB)  
 Contact: Roberta Wilfong- program manager  
 Grant beginning 3/1/2008 date prepared: 3/27/2008**

Categories	Forest Service amount	KPB-SBB amount
<u>Salaries and Wages</u>		
1) Program Manager	\$34,600	\$34,600
2) Forestry Tech/Contract Admin.	\$43,600	\$43,600
3) HTR Projects Coordinator	\$47,040	\$47,040
4) Administrative Assistant	\$39,400	\$39,400
<b>Total Salaries and Wages</b>	<b>\$164,640</b>	<b>\$164,640</b>
<u>Fringe Benefits- Health Insurance</u>		
1) Program Manager	\$6,000	\$6,000
2) Forestry Tech/Contract Admin.	\$12,000	\$12,000
3) HTR Projects Coordinator	\$12,000	\$12,000
4) Administrative Assistant	\$12,000	\$12,000
<b>Total fringe benefits</b>	<b>\$42,000</b>	<b>\$42,000</b>

Travel

\$21,500 travel costs for employees putting together right-of-way projects and checking contractors' work.

Supplies

Fire suppression – printer supplies for plotter used in mapping and modeling fire behavior, \$5000.

Education –printing educational handouts, Firewise printed items, display board, and fees for booth space \$12,000.

Contractual

Program work to remove hazard trees within the wildland/urban interface (WUI) along KPB and State roadways will continue. This work includes public use areas and priority projects noted in Community Wildfire Protection Plans as well as cooperative projects with All Lands/All Hands agencies. On average 40 miles have been treated annually; it is estimated that an additional 80 miles of road rights-of-way will be treated using \$386,800 Federal funds and SBB match funds.

Support will be provided to fire suppression agencies by funding crews with capability of initial attack during seasonal periods of high fire danger, generally 4 weeks/year. Project work will also include update of local fire behavior models in “after spruce bark beetle outbreak” fuel types and fire suppression table top training exercises completed using \$195,000 Federal funds and SBB match funds.

Annually KPB-SBB has provided \$25,000 in support of DOF program for a cost-share grant to encourage individual homeowners to create a defensible space around their structures. The intent is to continue to support this program FY09 thru FY11 (\$75,000). SBB will also continue to encourage resident's Firewise activities by attending public education outreach events such as health fairs, safety days, and the Ninilchik Fair. SBB will organize and host seasonal Firewise workshops at two separate peninsula locations, (\$105,000 annually). These education projects will be funded by \$90,000 Federal funds and SBB match funds.

Other

\$55,740 includes service fee charges by KPB to the program for administration, communication charges, office utilities, postage, and advertising.