



# WILDFIRE

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## 3.0 Wildfires

A detailed interagency<sup>1</sup> action plan for fire prevention and protection, hazardous fuel reduction, forest health, restoration, and rehabilitation and community assistance has been developed (final draft) for the Kenai Peninsula Borough. The *All Lands/All Hands Action Plan* is designed to be a working document that will implement the National Fire Plan (NFP) 10-Year Comprehensive Strategy and Healthy Forest Reforestation Act (HFRA) on Borough lands. To address local wildfire protection needs for Borough communities this plan is designed to facilitate the development of 20 Community Wildfire Protection Plans.

This comprehensive, multi-year plan provides a detailed assessment of wildfire issues facing the Kenai Peninsula Borough and its residents. It addresses the wildfire situation within the Kenai Peninsula Borough facilities and populations at risk from fire, goals and action items to mitigate fire risk, and an implementation schedule for identified plan goals. Information is arranged into three primary sections with five appendices:

- 1.0 **Introduction.** This section includes the background and purpose of the plan, document organization, and the relationship of this plan to others.
- 2.0 **Action Plan Goals, Principles, Actions, Outcomes, Performance Measures & Implementation Tasks.** This section describes in detail the four main goals of the plan, associated implementation tasks, and as a schedule for monitoring and evaluating the plan strategy.
- 3.0 **All Lands/ All Hands Multi-Year Project Implementation Schedule, Outputs, and Costs.**

Appendix A – Fuel Hazard and Wildfire Risk Assessment

Appendix B – Wildland Fire Protection Capability

Appendix C – Community Wildfire Protection Plans

Appendix D – Literature Cited

Appendix E – Individual Agency/Landowner 5-Year Project Implementation Plans

The entire *All Lands/All Hands Action Plan* is located in Annex H.

## 3.1 Wildfire History

The Kenai Peninsula Borough has an active wildfire history, with an average of 66 fires a year in the past 22 years. Many of these fires have been confined to a relatively small area, but active response plans are critical for fire control. The most recent large fire on the Kenai Peninsula occurred at Glacier Creek and burned a reported 8,600 acres (Table 3-1). More recent smaller fires have taken

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<sup>1</sup> Participating agencies include: The Kenai Peninsula Borough, The USDA Forest Service (Alaska Region), State of Alaska Division of Forestry, USDI Fish and Wildlife Service (Alaska Regional Office), USDI Bureau of Land Management (Anchorage Field Office), USDI National Park Service (Kenai Fjords National Park), USDI Bureau of Indian Affairs, Cook Inlet Resources (Alaska Regional Office).



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place at Kasilof (1997) in the central Peninsula (1997), Vosnesenka Village (1996) and Mansfield-Hutler Road (1999) in the southern Peninsula and the Kenai Lake, Mystery Hills and Thurman area (2001) in the north central Kenai Peninsula.

**Table 3-1.** Select Historical Fires on the Kenai Peninsula.

Year	Location	Number of acres affected
1947	Skilak Lake	310,000
1969	Swanson River	79,000
1974	Pipeline Road	3,780
May-June 1991	Pothole Lake*	7,900
1994	Windy point	2,700
June 1996	Crooked Creek	17,500
May 1996	Hidden Creek and Vosnesenka Village	5,200
July 1997	Kasilof	90
June 1999	Mansfield-Hutler Road	75
June-July 2001	Kenai Lake, Mystery Hills & Thurman	3,912 <sup>1</sup>
2003	Pipe Creek	513
2004	Glacier Creek Fire	8,600

\* Disaster Declaration

For additional information on fire history on the Kenai Peninsula see the *All Lands/All Hands Action Plan*:

- 1) Map A9: Historical Fire Start Locations and Ignition Cause on the Kenai Peninsula from 1980-2002.
- 2) Map A10: Fire History Map for Major Wildland Fires on the Kenai Peninsula since 1947.

## 3.2 All Lands/ All Hands Executive Summary

The All Lands/ All Hands Executive Summary provides an overview of the project including goals and estimated implementation costs and outputs. Refer to Annex H for the complete All/ All Hands Action Plan.

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<sup>1</sup> This was actually three fires: Kenai Lake (3,200acres), Mystery Hills (697 acres) and Thurman (15 acres).