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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

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**Fire Management Officer, Fairbanks Area
Alaska Division of Forestry**

Prescribed Burns to Occur in Support of Community Wildfire Protection Plan

FAIRBANKS, AK— The 2009 Hard Luck Creek Fire recently provided another example of the danger that wildfire may pose when in close proximity to a community. The responsibility for reducing risk prior to an emergency situation falls on individual home and property owners, in addition to communities as a whole.

This fall, firefighters from the Alaska Division of Forestry (DOF) Fairbanks Area will conduct several debris-pile prescribed burns in continuation of the multi-year cooperative Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). The CWPP is a collaboration between the Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB) and DOF that identifies populated areas within the FNSB that are at highest risk for wildfire.

The CWPP has led to the removal of flammable vegetation with the intent to not only eliminate areas of highly-flammable black spruce, but to do it in such a way that each site regenerates with trees and shrubs that do not promote an intense rate of fire spread. The fuel breaks will also serve as point from which firefighters can launch suppression efforts. Three local areas have received the hazard fuel reduction treatments. In all of the units, black spruce has been removed and piled in windrow-formations that best suit the burn operations.

- **Little Chena:** The units are located in the Little Chena River drainage, five to eight miles north of Chena Hot Springs Road. The fuel break is comprised of 11 units, totaling 1,225 acres.
- **Old Murphy Dome Road:** The units are located along the north side of Old Murphy Dome Road and are approximately 300 feet wide. The fuel break totals 200 acres.
- **Goldstream:** The units are located in the Goldstream Valley. One of the four units, totaling 100 acres, will be burned.

The prescribed burns are weather dependent and may occur as early as today and into the next several weeks, as conditions allow. Weather forecasts will be monitored to make sure that the burns only occur under conditions that direct smoke away from populated areas. Burning will not be conducted if the potential for fog or an inversion exists.

For additional information, please contact Fairbanks Area Forestry at 451-2636 or 451-2634.

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