Bonanza Creek - AK WFDSS Training

Unique Fire ID: 2026-AKFAS-511238

(IRWIN ID: 32ca3b80-856f-4a01-a77f-95fd779f5555)

Incident Decision

Draft

May 18th, 2026 (20:50 CDT)

Created By:

Casey O'Connor (05/18/2026 20:50:52)

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1. Decision Rationale

My leader's intent is....

Our decision for the Nenana Ridge Complex, which includes the Bonanza Creek and Goldstream Creek fires, is to provide for the safety of firefighters and the public while protecting the identified values at risk in this decision. This includes maintaining coordination among agencies and cooperators, managing resource allocation to support the strategy identified, and keeping the public informed of fire activity, smoke impacts and significant changes in fire activity.
The strategy for this fire is full suppression using a combination of direct and indirect attack to keep the fire from impacting the values identified within this decision. Where risk to
firefighters is not acceptable or control features do not exist and cannot be developed in a timely manner, point protection should be implemented to defend the values that are at risk.
A Complex Incident Management Team is the appropriate level of organization to protect the numerous critical values, effectively engage agency administrators and stakeholders, and ensure firefighter safety.

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This decision covers the Nenana Complex. This specific Bonanza Creek Decision is the "parent" of the complex, this decision includes Goldstream Creek the "child" of this grouped WFDSS.

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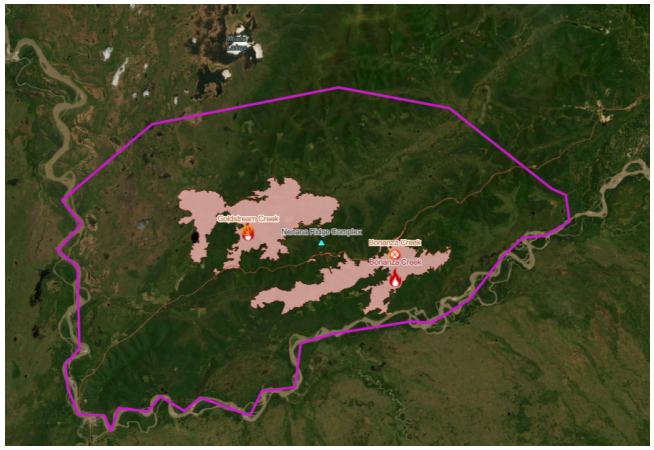
Due to a current bug in WFDSS, the published Values (Infrastructure/Natural/Cultural Concerns) is not populating in the correct box. They are inserted below:
Values within the planning area of Bonanza Creek and Gold Stream Fire.
The critical transportation corridor of the Parks Highway runs along the northern edge of the Bonanza Creek Fire and to the south of the Goldstream Creek. Impacts to this transportation corridor are of high concern.
The Alaska Railroad that runs to the north of the Goldstream Creek is identified as a high priority value.
Multiple Native allotments have been identified within the planning perimeter. Current allotments identified include; an allotment at Parks Hwy MM (mile marker) 330 with structures, an allotment with structures located to the south of the Bonanza Creek Fire along the Tanana River, an allotment to the east of the Bonanza Creek Fire on the Tanana River, an allotment on the railroad to the north of the Goldstream Creek Fire, and two more to the north and northwest. There are multiple allotments along the Tanana River and Nenana River, south and west of the fires.
Construction operations, including personnel and equipment, are identified between Parks Hwy MM321 and MM322.
Structures and subdivisions include; TOG subdivision near MM320, values identified near MM328 including Skinny Dick's Halfway Inn, multiple structures identified near MM329, structures along the Parks Hwy in the Little Goldstream area, to the southwest of Goldstream Creek at MM313-316, and multiple structures and communication sites north of Nenana, along the Parks Hwy, Nenana and Tanana Rivers in the southwest corner of the planning area.

Approximately 1600 acres of active and proposed timber sales have been identified within the planning area, with an estimated value of over $3M. These silviculture values are surrounding both fires in all directions. The Bonanza Creek Experimental Forest also is within the planning perimeter.
Structures along the Tanana River to the southeast of the Bonanza Creek Fire have also been identified.
Critical infrastructure identified in the planning perimeter also includes the intertie that provides power to the surrounding area; this runs roughly parallel to the Parks Highway. The GCI fiber optic cable running through the planning area is also of high concern.

Planning Area:



Decision Approvers include the following:

Kevin Meany (Northern Region Forester) - Jurisdictional Approver for State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources
Collin Ewing - Jurisdictional Approver for BLM Fairbanks District
Michelle Watchman (Deputy Director of Trust Services) - Jurisdictional Approver for BIA
Kyle Cowan - Jurisdictional Approver for ANCSA Lands & Fiscal Approver for DOI lands in State Protection
Nate Zalewski (Acting Northern Region FMO) - Protection Agency Approver for State of Alaska Division for Forestry & Fire Protection
Kevin Meany, the Jurisdictional Agency Approver at the point of origin will approve this decision in WFDSS and confirm concurrence from the approvers listed
above.

Decision Update Triggers

A new decision is required when:

- The course of action is no longer valid; or
- The fire moves beyond the planning area; or
- The incident exceeds an established agency threshold (cost or complexity) for approval authority; or
- The risk and complexity assessment indicates that the incident exceeds existing management capability.

2. Strategic Summary

Reported to IRWIN – N/A

Last IRWIN reported Strategy
Source: N/A
Date & Time: N/A

Strategies	WFDSS Reported	IRWIN Reported
Monitor	0%	N/A
Confine	18%	N/A
Point Zone Protection	0%	N/A
Full Suppression	82%	N/A

Strategic COA Name	Strategy	Feature Layer	Feature Name
Highway Corridor	Full Suppression	User Defined Course of Action Shapes	Parks Hwy COA
Communities at Risk: Little Goldstream and Nenana	Full Suppression	User Defined Course of Action Shapes	Communities at risk...Little Goldstream and Nenana

Strategic COA Name	Strategy	Feature Layer	Feature Name
Confine Contain	Confine	User Defined Course of Action Shapes	Confine Contain
Fire Containment	Full Suppression	Planning Area	Current

Highway Corridor	Feature Layer	*User Defined Course of Action Shapes*

Strategic Course of Action

Utilize appropriate fire strategies to minimize fire impacts on the Parks Highway Corridor to reduce the potential for adverse health, social, financial, and economic hardships.

Current Fire Situation

Bonanza Creek and Goldstream Creek Fires - Spruce-dominated fuel beds remain active, exhibiting primarily smoldering and creeping fire behavior with limited perimeter growth. Surface fire activity is mainly occurring in underburned spruce stands, where smoldering continues as interior fuels—including jackstraw configurations—burn out with falling trees contributing to localized surface activity.
The fire has exceeded previously set parameters and impacted the Parks Highway, the Alaska Railroad, an allotment, and structures. Burnout operations have been conducted to protect values in imminent danger.

Desired Outcome

All values along the Parks Highway are protected.

Maintain ingress /egress for first responders, communities and tourism traffic (in this order) as best possible.

Strategic Comparison

Alaska's fire management options highlight full suppression in this area.

Strategic Constraints

Resource availability needs to be carefully weighed when choosing the correct tactic for full suppression. Firefighter fatigue must be considered as part of this course of action. Access/Egress into the area is a possible constraint to this strategy. Ensure all firefighters have adequate access/egress and a route for any possible emergency extraction before engaging in all courses of action.

Cooperators/Stakeholders

- State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources
- Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Fairbanks District
- Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)
- ANCSA Cooperation
- Department of Interior (DOI)
- AK DOT

Communities at Risk: Little Goldstream and Nenana	**Feature Layer**	*User Defined Course of Action Shapes*

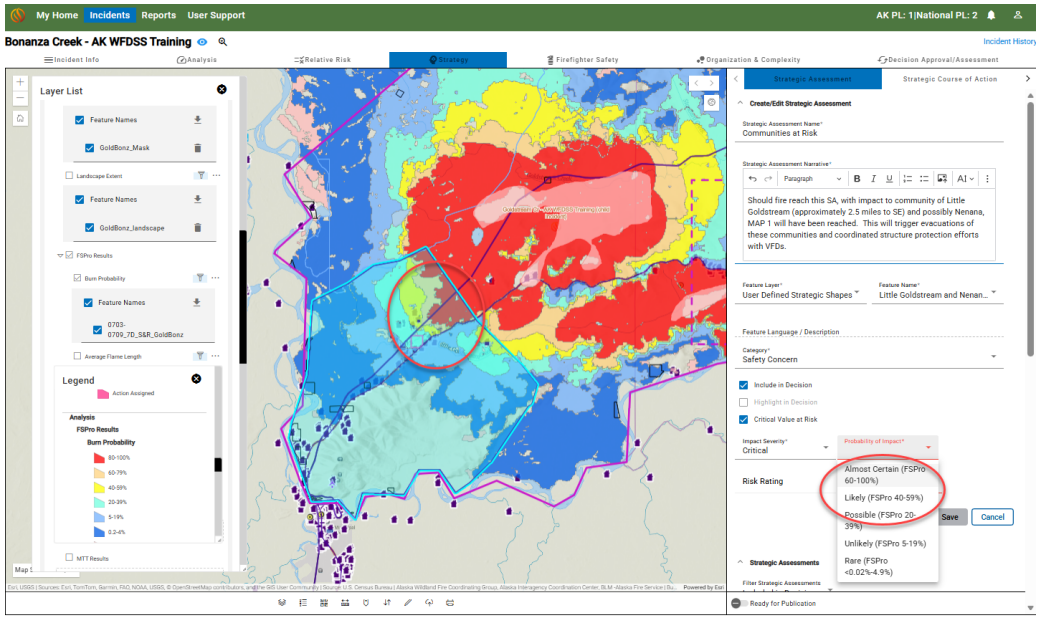
Strategic Course of Action

Should fire cross into this COA, close coordination with Borough and local EMS to facilitate evacuation of residences is recommended. Strategy of suppression will be dictated by fire behavior. Full suppression is selected, however if this becomes ineffective Point Zone Protection of structures may be warranted.

Current Fire Situation

Bonanza Creek and Goldstream Creek Fire - Spruce-dominated fuel beds remain active, exhibiting primarily smoldering and creeping fire behavior with DRAFT DRAFT limited perimeter growth. Surface fire activity is mainly occurring in underburned spruce stands, where smoldering continues as interior fuels —including jackstraw configurations—burn out with falling trees contributing to localized surface activity. The fire has exceeded previously set parameters and impacted the Parks Highway, the Alaska Railroad, an allotment and structures. Burnout operations have been conducted to protect values in imminent danger.

Fire is currently ~2.5 miles to the NE of reaching MAP 1 (trigger for this COA).



Desired Outcome

Protect residences (life and property) in this area.

Strategic Comparison

NA

Strategic Constraints

Full suppression is the primary strategy for both fires, aiming to stop fire spread using direct and indirect tactics. Point protection will be used only where full suppression is unsafe or unfeasible, focused on defending specific values at risk rather than controlling the entire perimeter.

Cooperators/Stakeholders

- State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources
- Local Fire Departments
- Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Fairbanks District
- Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)
- ANCSA Cooperation
- Department of Interior (DOI)
- AK DOT

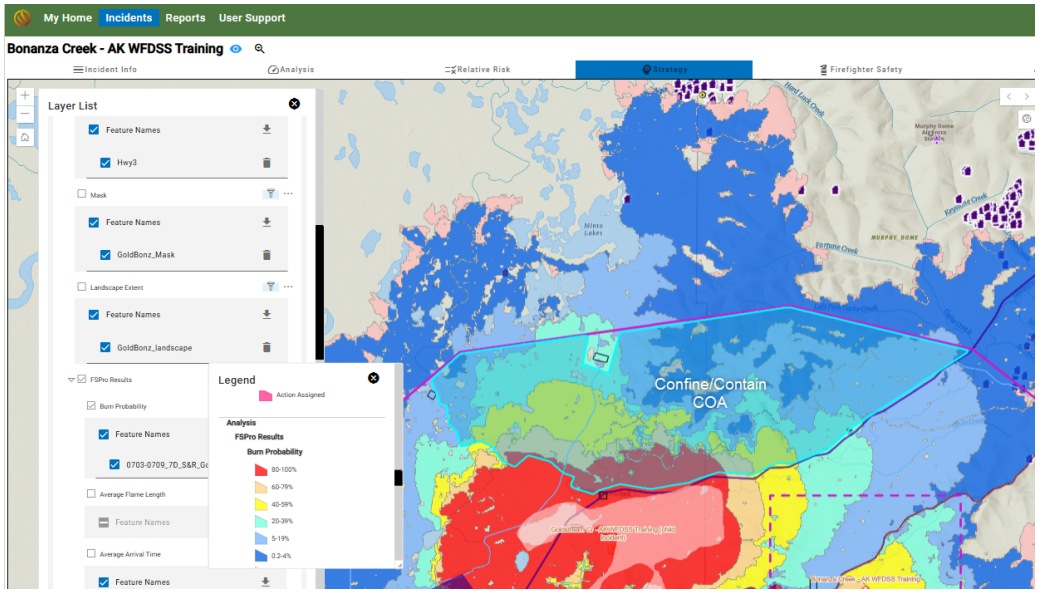
Confine Contain	Feature Layer	*User Defined Course of Action Shapes*

Strategic Course of Action

Area with minimal values at risk and tough country for firefighters to work. Risk to firefighters exceeds current values at risk and suppression efforts are needed more on other areas of this incident with limited resources.

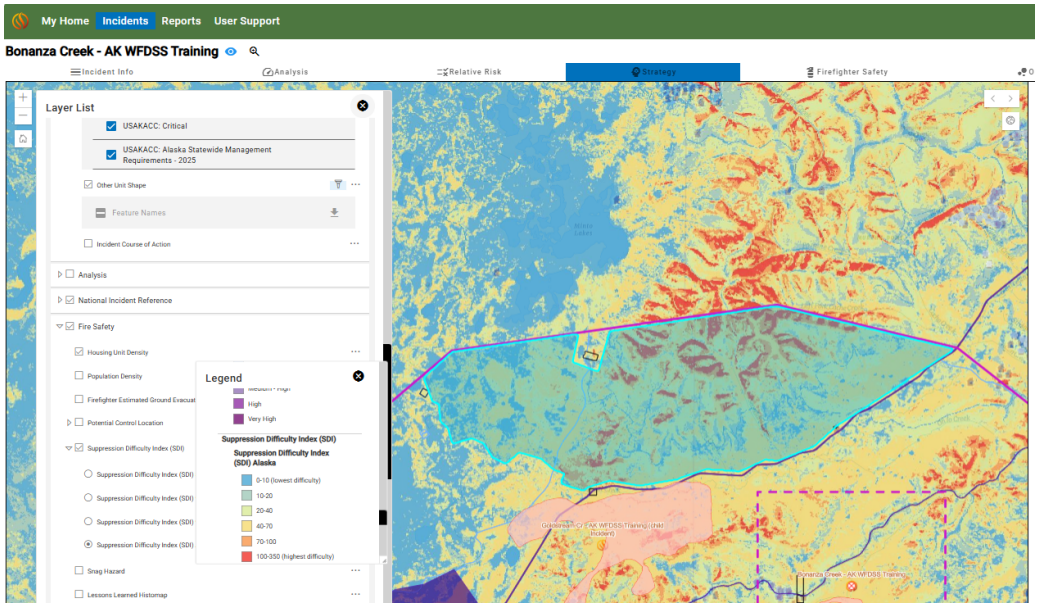
Current Fire Situation

Fire has just reached this area but current modeling indicates low probability of fire moving through (<40%).



Current FSPro Run indicates low probability of fire burning through this area and impacting values beyond. Mid range weather forecast indicates wetting

pattern coming across the region further decreasing fires potential for further spread to the North.



Suppression Difficulty Index is high in this area due to topography and limmited control features.

Desired Outcome

Confine and contain fire within this area using existing barriers.

Strategic Comparison

Full Suppression.

Strategic Constraints

Increased fire behavior or modeling that indicates values beyond this area are at risk may warrant point protection of values.

Cooperators/Stakeholders

State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Fairbanks District Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) ANCSA Cooperation, Department of Interior (DOI)

Fire Containment	**Feature Layer**	*Planning Area*

Strategic Course of Action

Goldstream Creek - The strategy for this fire is full suppression of the fire using both direct and indirect tactics to keep the fire north of the Parks Highway and limiting spread to the north and west. East of the Nenana River and west of the Skinny Dicks Road system. Where risk to firefighters is not acceptable or no solid holding features exist or can be developed, point protection of the values should be implemented.
Bonanza Creek - The strategy for this fire is full suppression of the fire using a combination of direct and indirect attack to keep the fire south of the Parks Highway, and north of the Tanana River. Where risk to firefighters is not acceptable or no definable control features exist or can be developed, point protection should be implemented to defend the values that are at risk.

Current Fire Situation

Bonanza Creek and Goldstream Creek Fire - Spruce-dominated fuel beds remain active, exhibiting primarily smoldering and creeping fire behavior with limited perimeter growth. Surface fire activity is mainly occurring in underburned spruce stands, where smoldering continues as interior fuels—including jackstraw configurations—burn out with falling trees contributing to localized surface activity.

The fire has exceeded previously set parameters and impacted the Parks Highway, the Alaska Railroad, an allotment and structures. Burnout operations have been conducted to protect values in imminent danger.

Desired Outcome

Keeping both fires to the smallest footprint possible, protecting all known values at risk and maintaining transportation corridors, while mitigating risk to firefighters and the public.

Strategic Comparison

N/A

Strategic Constraints

Full suppression is the primary strategy for both fires, aiming to stop fire spread using direct and indirect tactics. Point protection will be used only where full suppression is unsafe or unfeasible, focused on defending specific values at risk rather than controlling the entire perimeter. A monitor strategy will be utilized in
remote areas with minimal fire behavior.

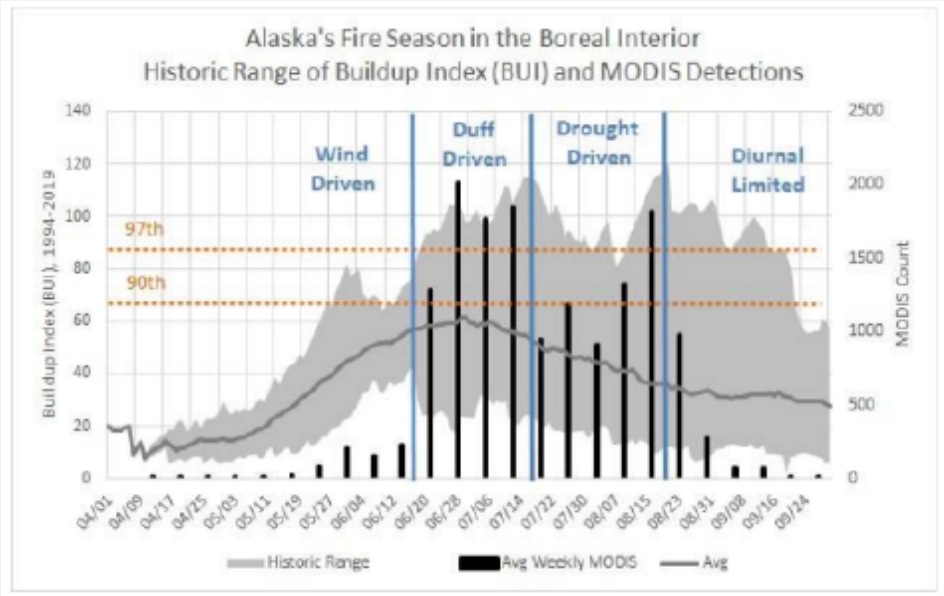
Cooperators/Stakeholders

State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources
Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Fairbanks District
Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)

ANCSA Cooperation,
Department of Interior (DOI)

3. Relative Risk PMS-236 - Part B (Summary)

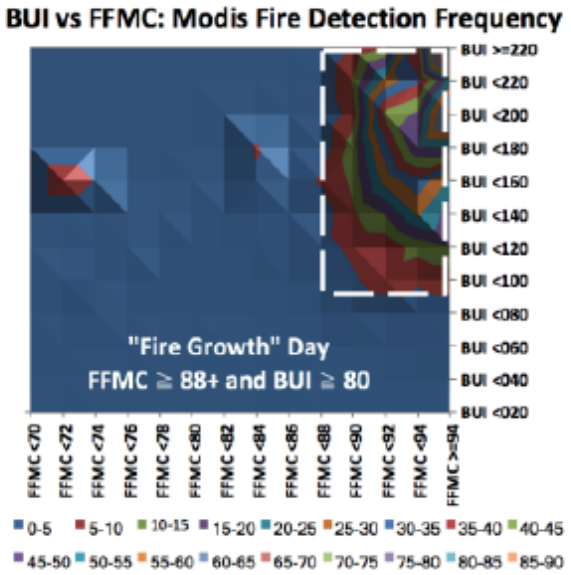
Probability	Time of Season
Rating	M
Time of Season Narrative	



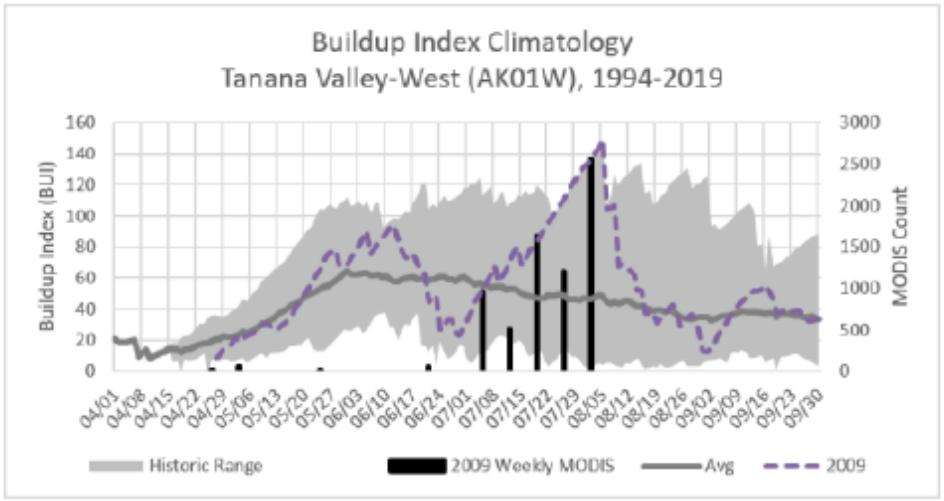
Currently in the beginning of Alaska's "Duff Driven" season where the Build up Index (BUI) becomes dry enough to support large fire growth. Generally, during high fire seasons, high pressure dominates the state and dries the fuels quickly with hot temperatures, low relative humidity, and very long days near the summer solstice. When this pattern occurs and is followed by lightning events, multiple natural ignitions occur and the dry fuels are able to support growth which can be very challenging to suppress. This pattern is noted by the highest average of weekly modis detections.

Correlating FWI Values and Strategic Analysis of the Alaska Fire Season

Together, FFMC and BUI represent the total fuel available for combustion. A strong correlation has been noted between MODIS detections (representing fire growth), and fuel moisture conditions using Fine Fuel Moisture Code above 88 and Build Up Index above 80 as shown in the graph below and published here: https://www.frames.gov/documents/catalog/ziel_et_al_2015_modeling-fire-growth-potential.pdf



The duff driven season also coincides with a well documented threshold for large fire growth in Alaska. The graph above shows a high correlation of detected modis in areas where the BUI is greater than 80, and the Fine Fuel Moisture Code (FFMS) is greater than 88. These conditions are responsible for the most growth, generally within the duff and drought driven seasons.



Percentile	Term Date	Season Characteristics
25%	7/3	Duff Driven - Resistance to control
50%	8/1	Cumulative Drought - Resistance to Extinguishment
75%	8/31	Diurnal - Short burn window, good RH recovery
90%	9/26	

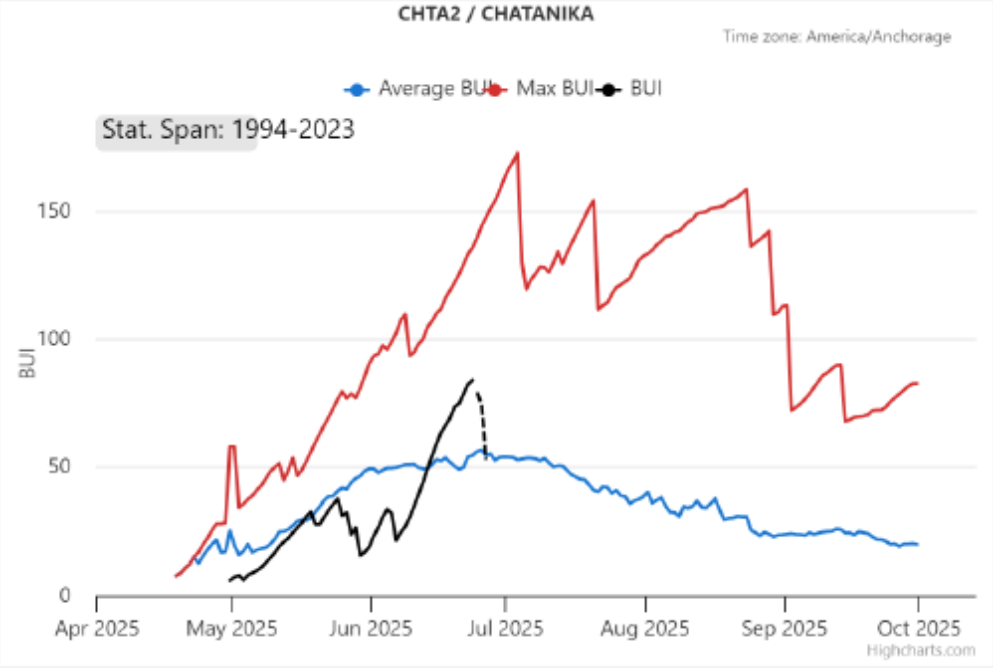
The climatology graph for the Predictive Service Area (PSA) AK01W shows the historic range of BUI, the average, and a notable year for the area, in this case it was 2009. The modis detections are shown for the year 2009. This graph also shows the term date of the probability of a season ending event occurring by date. Season ending criteria in Alaska are when the BUI drops below 80 and does not recover for the rest of the season. In this PSA, there is a 25% of a season ending event occurring by 7/3, 50% by 8/1, and at least a 75% chance by 8/31.

Probability	**Barriers to Fire Spread**
Rating	M
Barriers to Fire Spread Narrative	

The main barriers to fire spread is the formidable Tanana River to the south and east of the fire. This large fire would take an extremely rare event to have a spot fire occur on the other side of it. Another barrier is the Parks Highway, located to the north of the incident. This was used as a barrier in FSPro to stop surface

fire spread and would make the simulation need to spot over it to again carry on the other side. Although his is necessary in the model to show that the fire would need to spot, the resolution of the barrier created is much wider than the actual highway. Therefore, with the observed and potential fire behavior that may
occur, this feature should not be expected to stop fire spread.

Probability	Seasonal Severity
Rating	M
Seasonal Severity Narrative	



Seasonal severity in Alaska is best defined by observing the BUI. The Chatanika RAWS station is graphed above, showing that conditions so far this season have been much above average but well below the maximum value ever recorded for the time of year. In the area of the incident, BUI levels were near the 80 mark, which show that there was/may still have a great amount of potential for large fire growth. The graph above shows that in a severe season, there could potentially be another 3 months of fire season.

Hazards	Fuel Conditions
Rating	H

Fuel Conditions Narrative

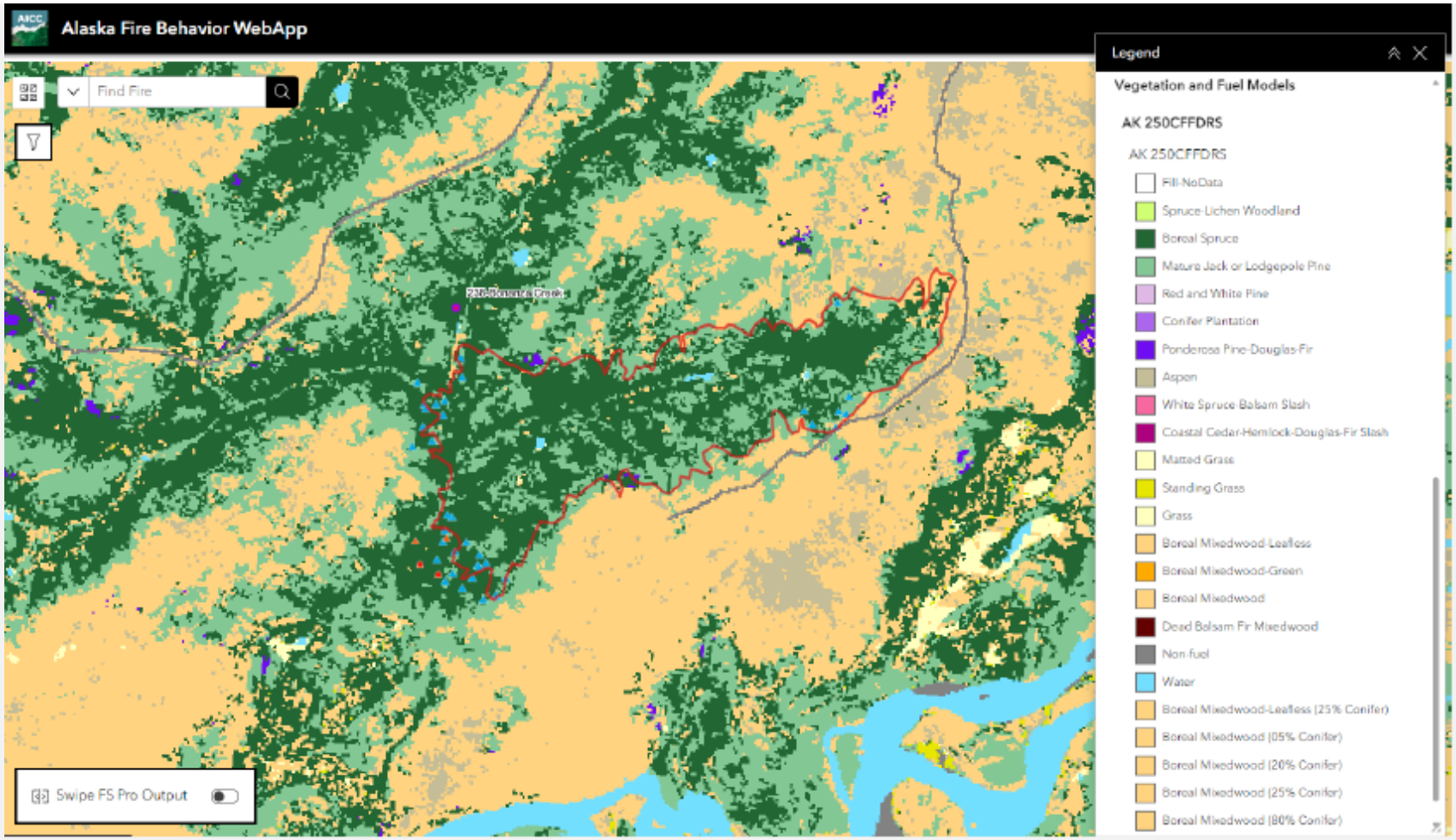
Station WX & FWIs **CHTA2** CHATANIKA

MODE CFFDRS MESOWEST NO-PRECIP GRAPH

Date	ATF	RHP	WSM	GUST	VPD	PREC 24h	FFMC	DMC	DC	ISI	BUI	FWI
2025-07-08 hrly	63	68	6		6	0.34	52.5	50.6	331.7	0.4	73.2	0.8
2025-07-07 hrly	71	61	9		10	0.04	84.2	90.6	351.9	3.9	110.3	17.1
2025-07-06 hrly	78	40	9		20	0.00	92.2	88.6	344.3	12.1	107.8	37
2025-07-05 hrly	84	20	6	17	32	0.00	94.6	84.8	336	13.3	104	38.7
2025-07-04 hrly	78	37	3	7	21	0.00	92.3	79.2	327.1	7.6	98.6	26
2025-07-03 hrly	79	26	2	8	25	0.00	92.7	75.2	318.8	7.4	94.6	24.9
2025-07-02 hrly	75	35	6	15	19	0.00	91	70.5	310.4	8	89.9	25.7
2025-07-01 hrly	81	35	4	15	23	0.00	90.9	66.7	302.4	6.8	86	22.3

Fuel conditions as shown by the Canadian Forest Fire Danger Rating System (CFFDRS) Fire Weather Index (FWI) at the start of the incident (6/19) through 6/23. The second picture shows current conditions. These observations are taken from the Chatanika RAWS station, which was deemed to be the most

representative for the area. The blue boxes in the screenshot taken from Alaska Fire and Fuels (AKFF) are predicted values based on a gridded weather model. The conditions on the start and throughout the incident to date show that the fine fuels as represented by FFMC have been in the extreme range, very receptive to spot fires and well dry enough to be available to fire spread. The Duff Moisture Code (DMC) is in the very high range, meaning that the upper layers of the duff are very dry and are contributing to the fuel load. Extreme fire behavior is possible in Alaska with a DMC of 60 or greater (currently 84). The deep duff layers are shown by the Drought Code (DC). This indice is a rating of the moisture content of deep, compact organic layers. It is useful in determining seasonal drought effects on forest fuels and the amount of smoldering expected in deep duff layers and large logs. Due to a wet spring, the DC code has remained in the moderate range, meaning that the deepest part of the duff has not yet been available for combustion and large surface fuels are relatively still wet. The Initial Spread Index (ISI) is a combination of the FFMC plus wind. It is a key predictor in CFFDRS that integrates dead surface fuel moisture and windspeed to estimate spread potential. Extreme and very high readings have mostly been observed correlating to very active fire behavior but not extreme. The BUI is used to estimate overall fuel availability and is used as a direct input to fire behavior calculations in CFFDRS. The very high level around 104 indicates that this area has what analysts in Alaska consider to have the entire fuelbed available for consumption, and large fire growth is likely with these readings. The Fire Weather Index (FWI) is a rating of fire intensity that integrates the BUI and ISI to produce a general index of fire danger and potential for extreme fire behavior and difficulty of control.



The Canadian fuel types are shown in the above graph, with Black Spruce Represented as the dark green (Boreal Spruce). This fuel type produces the most intense fire behavior in Alaska. The footprint from the current perimeter shows that the fire mostly followed an area with dense black spruce, with minor growth into deciduous fuels shown as mixedwood or aspen. There is more black spruce available adjacent to the fire to the north, south, and west. Mixed wood fuel types and aspen are located to the east of the fire, as well as the Tanana River.

Hazards	Fire Behavior
Rating	H

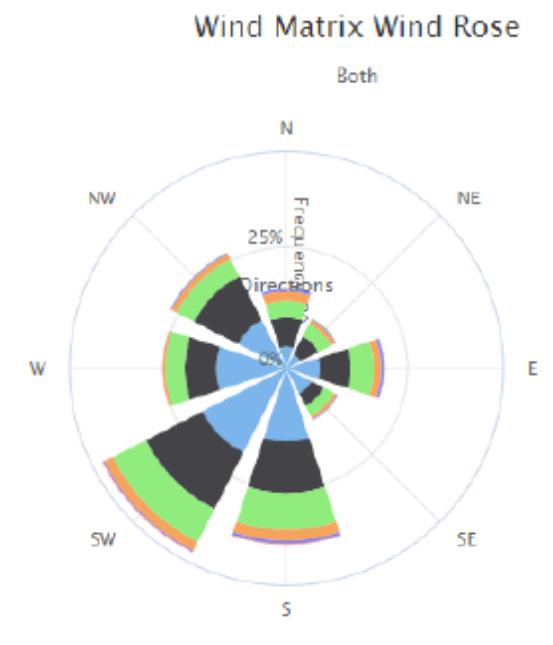
Fire Behavior Narrative

Current fire behavior has been observed flanking, running, group torching and spotting.

Hazards	Potential Fire Growth
Rating	M

Potential Fire Growth Narrative

Fire growth potential is expected to be moderate. The fire is not expected to cross the Tanana River with the moderate conditions and forecasted medium range weather. The most likely growth would likely occur in the black spruce fuels to the north and west. For a more detailed probability map, refer to the latest Fire Spread Probability (FSPro) simulation. According the Chatanika RAWS, SW winds are the most prevalent wind direction for the time period of concern. Growth to the NE in conjunction with the black spruce fuels would likely be helped by a tendency for SE winds.



Values	Infrastructure/Natural/CulturalConcerns
Rating	H

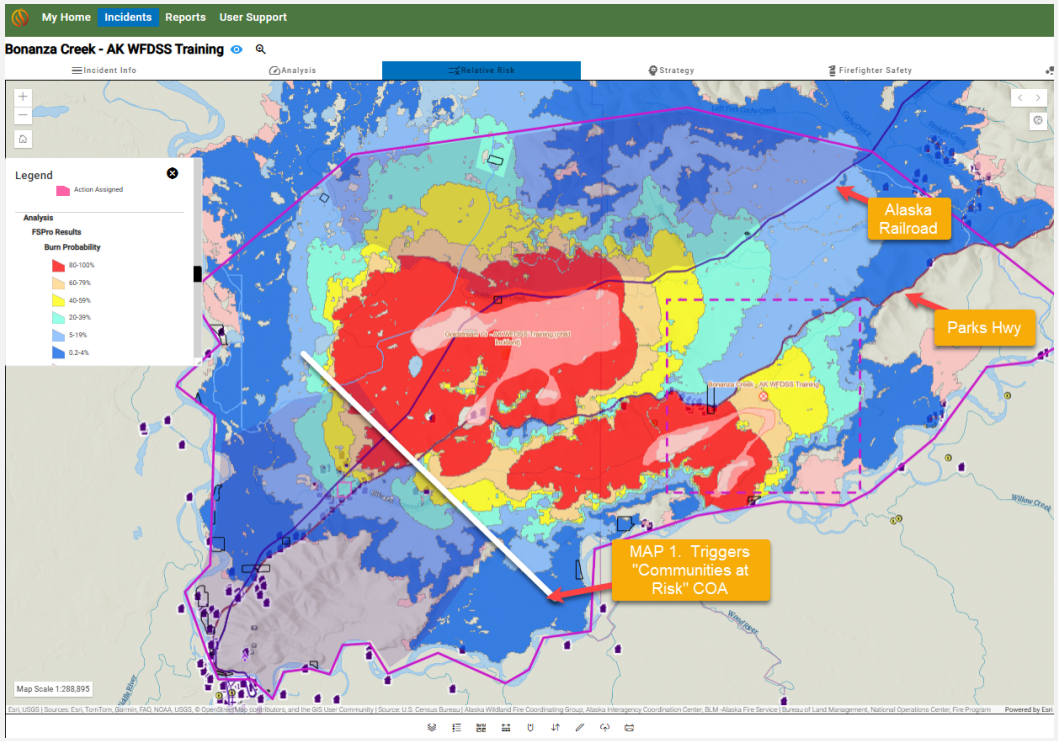
Infrastructure/Natural/CulturalConcerns Narrative

This section has "Hazards" section copied in here in the Production Decision. Map of values and a narrative is needed for training.

Values	Proximity & Threat to Fire Values
Rating	H

Proximity & Threat to Fire Values Narrative

All values identified are in close proximity and threatened by both fires. The Parks Hwy is currently directly impacted by both fires.
Current and planned timber sales are being directly impacted or are in near proximity on both fires.
As the Goldstream Creek Fire progresses to the north the AK railroad continues to be impacted.
The construction site near mile 321 is of concern as the Goldstream Fire backs near toward the south. Threat to this value needs to be continually assessed.
The intertie is in close proximity, however threat is moderated due to lack of adjacent fuels and defensible space.
The Bonanza Creek Experimental Forest sites are directly threatened throughout the planning area.



Values	Social/Economic Concerns
Rating	H

Social/Economic Concerns Narrative

The Parks Highway serves as one of only two roads that connect the interior of Alaska with the rest of the state. Along with the Alaska Railroad, it is a vital artery to the transport of goods and services between the main population center and port of Anchorage and Fairbanks. The Parks Highway is a key route for tourism that contributes to the economic health of the region. The highway plays a crucial role in safety for emergency management to access remote areas during emergencies or disaster response. Alaska's resource development in oil, gas, minerals and timber is supported by this highway and are crucial to the state's economic sustainability.
Fiber optic lines, communication infrastructure, and the Alaska Intertie serve as critical values to the Northern Region.

Relative Risk Rating (Recommended)	**High**
Relative Risk Rating (Selected)	**High**

Relative Risk Rating Narrative

The Bonanza Creek and Goldstream Creek Fires present a high relative risk due to their proximity to multiple critical values. Threats include the Parks Highway corridor, where active fire spread could impact structures, residential properties, and impede evacuation and travel routes. The Alaska Intertie and Alaska Railroad, both essential infrastructure for power and freight transport, lie within the fire planning area. Fire activity also threatens an active construction project near MP 321, multiple native allotments, and timber sale units, increasing economic, cultural, and natural resource impacts.

4. Strategic Assessment

Critical Values-at-Risk

Strategic Assessment Name	Feature Layer	Feature Name	Category	Risk Rating	Severity of Impact	Probability of Impact	At Risk Because of
Parks Hwy	User Defined Strategic Shapes	Parks Hwy	Social/ Economic Concern	Extremely High	Critical	Almost Certain (FSPro 60-100%)	Potential Fire Behavior
Communities at Risk	User Defined Strategic Shapes	Little Goldstream and Nenana Communities	Protection Objective	Extremely High	Critical	Likely (FSPro 40-59%)	Potential Fire Behavior

Strategic Assessment Narrative – Critical Values at Risk

Strategic Assessment Name	Strategic Assessment Narrative
Parks Hwy	The critical transportation corridor of the Parks Highway runs along the northern edge of the Bonanza Creek Fire and to the south of the Goldstream Creek. Impacts to this transportation corridor are of high concern due to this travel corridor supporting much of the tourism industry in this area. This Highway is also important for access from small communities to Fairbanks for food and medical needs.

Strategic Assessment Name	Strategic Assessment Narrative
	Additionally, having firefighters working along this corridor during the busy tourism season poses safety concerns that will need to be mitigated.
Communities at Risk	Should fire reach this SA, with impact to community of Little Goldstream (approximately 2.5 miles to SE) and possibly Nenana, MAP 1 will have been reached. This will trigger evacuations of these communities and coordinated structure protection efforts with VFDs.

Other Strategic Assessments

Strategic Assessment Name	Feature Layer	Feature Name	Category
Life Safety	Planning Area	Current	Incident Objective
Protect Values at Risk	Planning Area	Current	Protection Objective
Native Allotments	Planning Area	Current	Social/Economic Concern
Stakeholder Relations	Planning Area	Current	Incident Objective
Information	Planning Area	Current	Incident Objective

Strategic Assessment Narrative – Other

Strategic Assessment Name	Strategic Assessment Narrative
Life Safety	Ensure firefighter and public safety remains the highest priority.
Protect Values at Risk	Incident operations prioritize the protection of identified values at risk, including residences, critical infrastructure such as the Alaska Intertie and Railroad, native allotments, current and future timber sale areas. Minimize long term suppresion effect on all identified Bonanza Creek Experimental Forest plots. Protect construction operations along the Parks Highway. Minimize impacts to the Parks Highway corridor.
Native Allotments	Protecting Alaska tribal allotments held in restricted status from catastrophic wildland fires is crucial for safeguarding longstanding traditions, sacred sites, and culturally significant flora and fauna. These efforts ensure that tribal ecological knowledge can be preserved and passed down to future generations. Without these protections, communities face risks such as food insecurity, damage to sacred sites, disruption of language and heritage, fractured social networks, and the erosion of tribal identity. Such impacts can undermine social cohesion, mental well-being, cultural resilience, and the cultural integrity of Alaska Native peoples. Please note that some culturally significant values may be considered proprietary tribal information and are not meant for general dissemination. However, it is important to recognize that these values are deeply ingrained in the communities and reflect the intrinsic connection between the people and the land. Specific data may not be openly shared publicly due to past interactions or legacy relationships. However, the main values typically include food harvesting, gathering of traditional resources such as medicinal plants and basket-making materials, traditional building materials, and sacred sites.

Strategic Assessment Name	Strategic Assessment Narrative
Stakeholder Relations	Engage early and consistently with affected stakeholders including landowners, utility managers, and tribal representatives. Prioritize collaboration, respect jurisdictional concerns, and integrate stakeholder input into strategic and tactical decisionmaking.
Information	Provide accurate, timely, and accessible information to the public and cooperators through coordinated messaging and appropriate communication platforms. Work closely with agencies to ensure common operating pictures and accurate information.

5. Estimated Final Incident Cost

Estimated Final Cost	Cost Estimation Method
$9,500,000	Other

Cost Estimation Narrative

Estimated current fires costs to date are $3.5M. With a daily burn rate of approximately $400k projected for another 14 days, an additional $5.6M is expected. Final cost estimation is $9.5M.

IRWIN Estimated Cost to Date: N/A

Last IRWIN Reported Cost to Date
Source: N/A
Date & Time: N/A

6. Organizational Assessment PMS-236 - Part C/D

Organizational Assessment Part C

Relative Risk Rating (Selected)	High
Relative Risk Rating Narrative	
The Bonanza Creek and Goldstream Creek Fires present a high relative risk due to their proximity to multiple critical values. Threats include the Parks Highway corridor, where active fire spread could impact structures, residential properties, and impede evacuation and travel routes. The Alaska Intertie and Alaska Railroad, both essential infrastructure for power and freight transport, lie within the fire planning area. Fire activity also threatens an active construction project near MP 321, multiple native allotments, and timber sale units, increasing economic, cultural, and natural resource impacts.	
Implementation Difficulty	**Potential Fire Duration**
Rating	High
Potential Fire Duration Narrative	
Due to continuous availability of receptive fuels, including black spruce and deep duff, the fire is expected to smolder and creep for an extended period.	
Implementation Difficulty	**Incident Strategies (Course of Action)**
Rating	Moderate

Incident Strategies (Course of Action) Narrative
The selected strategies reflect current limitations in resource availability, prioritizing tactics that maximize efficiency and minimize firefighter exposure. Available ground and air resources are being used where they are most effective, with a reliance on aircraft to support suppression efforts in areas with difficult access or elevated risk. Firefighter safety remains the top priority, with exposure reduced through indirect tactics and point protection.

Implementation Difficulty	Functional Concerns
Rating	High

Functional Concerns Narrative
Functional concerns are being managed across all sections, with moderate complexity. Planning is focused on maintaining situational awareness and supporting decision-making with accurate fire behavior and weather intelligence. Operations face challenges related to access, resource limitations, and sustained engagement, while Logistics is coordinating support over a broad area with limited ground infrastructure. Public Information and Liaison remains key as fires within the complex have gained public interest and involve multiple stakeholders. It is important to have any messaging in sync with all stakeholders and agencies supporting the complex.

Socio/Political Concerns	Objective Concerns
Rating	High

Objective Concerns Narrative
Social and political concerns are high due to the fire’s proximity to communities, critical infrastructure, and Native allotments, as well as impacts to the Parks Highway and the Alaska Railroad.

Socio/Political Concerns	External Influences
Rating	High

External Influences Narrative

External influences are moderate to high, with multiple fires competing for limited resources at the regional level. The incident could impact transportation routes, air quality, and communities within the planning area. Coordination with cooperators, utility providers, and local governments is critical to managing expectations and aligning priorities.

Socio/Political Concerns	Ownership Concerns
Rating	Moderate

Ownership Concerns Narrative

Given the incident's complexity, social and political concerns, multi-jurisdictional ownership, resource constraints, it is recommended to manage this incident with a CIMT. A CIMT will provide the desired expertise, interagency coordination, and strategic oversight necessary to effectively manage this challenging fire environment while addressing stakeholder expectations and operational demands.

Recommended Organization	CIMT

Recommended Organization Description

Majority of items rated as High or Moderate; a few items may be rated in other categories. Use Part D: Functional Complexity to document the need to increase or reduce capacity/positions.

Unit Recommended Organization	CIMT

Unit Recommended Organization Narrative
Majority of items rated as Moderate, with a few items rated as High. Use Part D: Functional Complexity to document the need to increase or reduce capacity/ positions. Current and expected fire behavior, as well as impacts to the Parks Highway and Alaska Railroad, highlight the need to establish a CIMT level of organization.

Organizational Assessment Part D

Functional Complexity	**command**
Rating	Moderate
Command Narrative	
The complexity of this incident requires strong command support to address elevated public information demands, ongoing coordination with multiple cooperators, and dynamic safety conditions. A dedicated Public Information function is essential to manage media interest, deliver timely updates, and engage affected communities. Safety Officers must continuously evaluate evolving fire conditions and suppresion operations to provide for fireighter safety.	
Functional Complexity	**Planning**
Rating	Moderate
Planning Narrative	

Planning complexity is moderate, with a need for consistent situational awareness, data management, and coordination across functional areas. The Planning Section is supporting operational decision-making through timely fire behavior forecasts, resource tracking, and updated incident mapping. Emphasis is placed on maintaining clear communication with cooperators and ensuring that incident objectives, trigger points, and contingency plans are well documented and aligned with current conditions.

Functional Complexity	**Operations**
Rating	Moderate
Operations Narrative	

Operations are moderate to high, with efforts focused on the protection of identified values at risk across a broad and varied landscape. Timely identification and communication of evacuation needs to the public are critical components of the operational response. Strategic decision-making must balance the use of full suppression, point protection, and confine tactics, requiring thoughtful planning, coordination, and flexibility to adjust as conditions evolve.

Functional Complexity	**Finance**
Rating	Moderate
Finance Narrative	

Tracking incident costs closely with attention to accuracy and documentation to support potential cost-share agreements and final overall incident costs. As suppression efforts continue across multiple jurisdictions and involve aviation, early coordination with cooperators and agency administrators is essential. Emphasis is placed on cost accountability, clear financial tracking, and timely reporting to support reimbursement and funding mechanisms.

Functional Complexity	**Logistics**

Rating	Moderate

Logistics Narrative

Logistics complexity is moderate to high due to the remote location, limited access routes, and the need to support dispersed resources over a large geographic area. The section is focused on maintaining supply chains, ensuring adequate support for ground and air operations, and anticipating needs tied to extended duration and shifting operational priorities.

7. Appendix A: Unit Fire Planning Information

Shape Name	Language Description
USAKACC: Alaska Statewide Management Requirements - 2025	**Alaska Statewide Management Requirements - 2025** Jurisdictional Agencies have identified the following general constraints and guidelines. Additional constraints applicable to specific incidents are at the discretion of the Jurisdictional Agency and are documented in the Jurisdictional Agency's fire management plans, the incident's decision record, and/or the Delegation of Authority. - Weigh the cost and environmental impacts of suppression actions against the economic, social, and/or resource values warranting protection. Consider risk to firefighters and the public in all fire management decisions. - To the extent possible, use minimum impact suppression tactics. Wherever possible, construct firelines in a manner that minimizes erosion and follows natural contours. Use indirect attack to the extent practical. A suppression repair plan for wildfire suppression activity damage, as approved by the Jurisdictional Agency(ies), must be completed before the final demobilization occurs. - Locate base camps, spike camps, staging areas, helispots, and other incident support areas in natural clearings if possible and minimize their visible footprint consistent with operational need and safety requirements. Make Jurisdictional Agencies aware of all support areas located on their lands. Keep these areas clean so as not to attract animals and ensure all unused supplies including fuel, oil, food, etc. are removed prior to demobilization of the incident. Exceptions must be explicitly authorized by the Jurisdictional Agency. - Incident support areas on private lands or Native allotments require a Land Use Agreement (LUA). Do not remove resources (e.g., firewood, etc.) from private lands or Native allotments without an approved LUA. The BIA or the local BIA service provider must prepare Land Use Agreements involving Native allotments. - The use of tracked or off-road vehicles requires approval by the Jurisdictional Agency(ies) prior to use.

Shape Name	Language Description
	- Comply with the stipulations and notification requirements in the ADF&G statewide *Fish Habitat Permit FH20-SW-0001 Amendment 3* when withdrawing water from a fish-bearing stream with portable pumps, scooper aircraft, or aerial buckets; or when crossing it with a vehicle or heavy equipment. - If a game animal is killed in defense of life or property (DLP) on an incident, file an *Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) DLP Report* and notify the Jurisdictional Agency(ies). - Protecting and Jurisdictional Agencies will coordinate with State of Alaska land managers if wildland fires, or wildland fire management activities have the potential to affect public access to public waters or impact state resources. Protecting and Jurisdictional Agencies will coordinate if wildland fires, or wildland fire management activities may result in fire area public access closures or may adversely impact values at risk. - Take measures to prevent the introduction and spread of terrestrial and aquatic invasive species during fire operations. To the extent possible, ensure that heavy equipment, gear, tools, and footwear are weed free before moving into incident support and fire suppression areas. Do not use waterbodies known to harbor invasive species as water sources for air or ground-based water delivery equipment unless needed to protect life or property. If used, clean and sanitize equipment before the next use. Communicate concerns, questions, and needs regarding invasive species to jurisdictional representatives in a timely manner. - Avoid application of aerial or ground delivered fire chemicals (including retardant) near lakes, wetlands, streams, rivers, and sources of human water consumption or areas adjacent to water sources. A minimum of 300 feet from waterways is identified in the *Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations* (Red Book). Individual Jurisdictional Agencies may have more restrictive retardant or other fire chemical use guidelines. Deviations from these guidelines may be acceptable when life or property is threatened, and the use of fire chemicals and/or retardant can be reasonably expected to alleviate the threat. - Suppression activities, including flight patterns on or near cultural sites or sites designated as “Avoid”, must be coordinated with the Jurisdictional Agency. - Consult with Jurisdictional Agencies regarding any operational restrictions in designated wilderness areas. - When planning incident fireline construction, consult completed and planned fuels treatment information provided by the Jurisdictional and/or Protecting Agencies.

Shape Name	Language Description
	- Limit structure protection (not suppression) activities by wildland firefighters to exterior efforts, and only when such actions can be accomplished safely and in accordance with agency policy and established wildland fire operations standards. - Wildland firefighters will not take direct suppression action on vehicle fires. Wildland firefighters will limit suppression efforts on vehicle fires to preventing spread into the wildlands and only if responders can avoid being exposed to the smoke from the burning vehicle. - Wildland firefighters will not take direct action on fires within landfills. Limit suppression actions to preventing spread into the wildlands and only if responders can avoid being exposed to the smoke from the landfill. Protecting Agencies will notify the ADEC Solid Waste Program of all fires that escape from landfills or that have a high potential to escape. - Immediately report any discovery of potential unexploded ordnance (UXO) or other potentially hazardous materials (e.g., mining sites, etc.) through proper channels. Firefighters will remain clear of the area until the threat has been evaluated and mitigated.
USAKACC: Full - DOF, USFS, and AFS-MID.	**AIWFMP Full Fire Management Option (DOF, USFS, and AFS-MID.)** The default initial action is to mobilize resources to protect the area and/or sites and suppress the fire while minimizing risk to public and/or firefighter safety. Initial action priorities are to: 1. Protect human life. 2. Protect qualifying sites and natural resources from damage by wildfire. 3. Contain fires at the smallest acreage reasonably possible in order to limit short and long-term threats to values.

Shape Name	Language Description
USAKACC: Critical	**AIWFMP Critical Fire Management Option** The default initial action is to mobilize resources to protect the area and/or sites and suppress the fire while minimizing risk to public and/or firefighter safety. Initial action priorities are to: 1. Protect human life. 2. Protect qualifying sites and natural resources from damage by wildfire. 3. Contain fires at the smallest acreage reasonably possible in order to limit short and long-term threats to values.
USAKACC: Limited - DOF, USFS, and AFS-MID.	**AIWFMP Limited Fire Management Option (DOF, USFS, and AFS-MID.)** The default initial action is to assess the fire's potential to affect neighboring values and conduct surveillance and site protection as warranted. Initial action priorities are to: 1. Protect human life. 2. Protect qualifying sites and natural resources from damage by wildfire. 3. Allow fires to burn naturally to the extent possible to protect, maintain, and enhance natural and cultural resources and maintain natural fire regimes.
USAKACC: Modified (Jul 10)	**AIWFMP Modified Fire Management Option (Jul 10)** Prior to the conversion date, the default initial action is to mobilize resources to protect the area and/or sites and suppress the fire while minimizing risk to public and/or firefighter safety. Pre-conversion initial action priorities are to: 1. Protect human life. 1. Protect qualifying sites and natural resources from damage by wildfire.

Shape Name	Language Description
	1. Contain fires to limit short and long-term threats to values. After the conversion date, the default initial action is to conduct surveillance, assessment, and site protection as warranted. Post-conversion initial action priorities are to: 1. Protect human life. 1. Protect qualifying sites and natural resources from damage by wildfire. 1. Allow fires to burn naturally to the extent possible to protect, maintain, and enhance natural and cultural resources and maintain natural fire regimes.
USAKAKA	Protect Native Allotments from fire and suppression activity impacts.Ensure BIA and/or compact provider is kept informed regarding strategy, risks, and progress on incidents involving Native Allotments.Provide BIA and/or compact provider with documentation of impacts to Native Allotments caused by fire or fire suppression actions. Native Allotments fall under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Titles to these land parcels are held by individual or groups of Native Alaskans. The lands are very similar to private land, but have a restricted status. The restricted status is the same as trust status except that the title is held by the Allotee with restrictions against taxation and alienation. It means that the Federal Government is responsible for maintaining these lands in perpetuity for their Native owners. Protecting Native Allotments and the Trust Resources on the Allotments from wildland fire and wildland fire suppression impacts is a part of the Federal Government's maintenance trust responsibility.
USAKCYD: 2005 LUP Amendment (2017)	Resource Management Plan direction from the 2005 BLM-Alaska Land Use Plan Amendment for Wildland Fire and Fuels Management specifies the following Goals and Objectives: *Protect human life and property. The supporting objectives include:* • Provide for firefighter and public safety as highest priority in every fire management activity.

Shape Name	Language Description
	• Provide appropriate protection to BLM physical developments, facilities and administrative sites while balancing costs with value-at-risk. • Preserve cultural and paleontological sites. • Manage vegetation adjacent to populated areas to reduce risk of wildfires. *Use wildland fire and fuel treatments to meet resource objectives. The supporting objectives include:* • Manage vegetation to the appropriate; seral stages to maintain watershed;condition, ecosystem health, and habitat conditions for fish and wildlife. • Sustain the natural range of variation in plant composition and structure. • Sustain the proper functioning conditionof riparian areas. • Maintain species diversity while decreasing the probability of wildlandfires in areas where the land use or resource objective necessitates wildland fire be excluded or minimized. • Maintain and protect subsistence uses and needs. • Sustain high value natural resources. • Maintain visual diversity. • Preserve cultural and paleontological sites. • Maintain or enhance commercial resource values. • Manage for requirements of threatened and endangered (T and E) species critical habitat, other special status species, habitats, and migratory birds. • Meet State air and water quality standards. *Reduce risk and cost of uncontrolled wildland fire through wildland fire use, prescribed fire, manual, or mechanical treatment. The supporting objectives include:* • Reduce risk to life and property. • Minimize effects of wildland fire in areas where the natural role of fire conflicts with current land use. • Balance acres burned and values at risk against suppression costs. • Reduce adverse effects of fire management activities. The supporting objectives include: • Prevent damage to cultural resources. • Minimize effects of suppression actions. • Prevent the introduction or spread of noxious or invasive plants.

Shape Name	Language Description
	• Safeguard essential fish habitat, T and E species, and all other plant and wildlife habitats. *Continue interagency collaboration and cooperation. The supporting objectives include:* • Continue the use of the wildland fire suppression criteria and operational direction in the AIWFMP. • Continue membership in the AWFCG. • Authorize suppression actions or fuel treatments on BLM-managed land to hinder wildland fire from occurring or spreading to higher management option designation on BLM-managed lands, inholdings or those of adjacent landowners. • Apply current fire management option classifications. • Use the change protocol issued by AWFCG to modify fire management options designations or boundaries. • Support scientific research. • Work cooperatively on landscape scale multi-jurisdictional projects.