



East Fork Incident Decision

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06/10/22 12:51

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1. Decision

1.1. Decision Summary

Decision Information

NAME	VALUE
Published	06/10/2022 12:51 CDT
Estimated Cost	\$10,000,000
Incident Owner(s)	Thomas St. Clair, Jeff Bouschor, Jacob Livingston, Michael Butteri
Editor(s)	Boyd Blihovde, Kent Slaughter, Lynn Polacca
Reviewer(s)	Jeff Bouschor, Jacob Livingston, Michael Butteri, Thomas St. Clair
Approver(s)	Boyd Blihovde, Kent Slaughter, Lynn Polacca
Natl Preparedness Level	2

Decision History

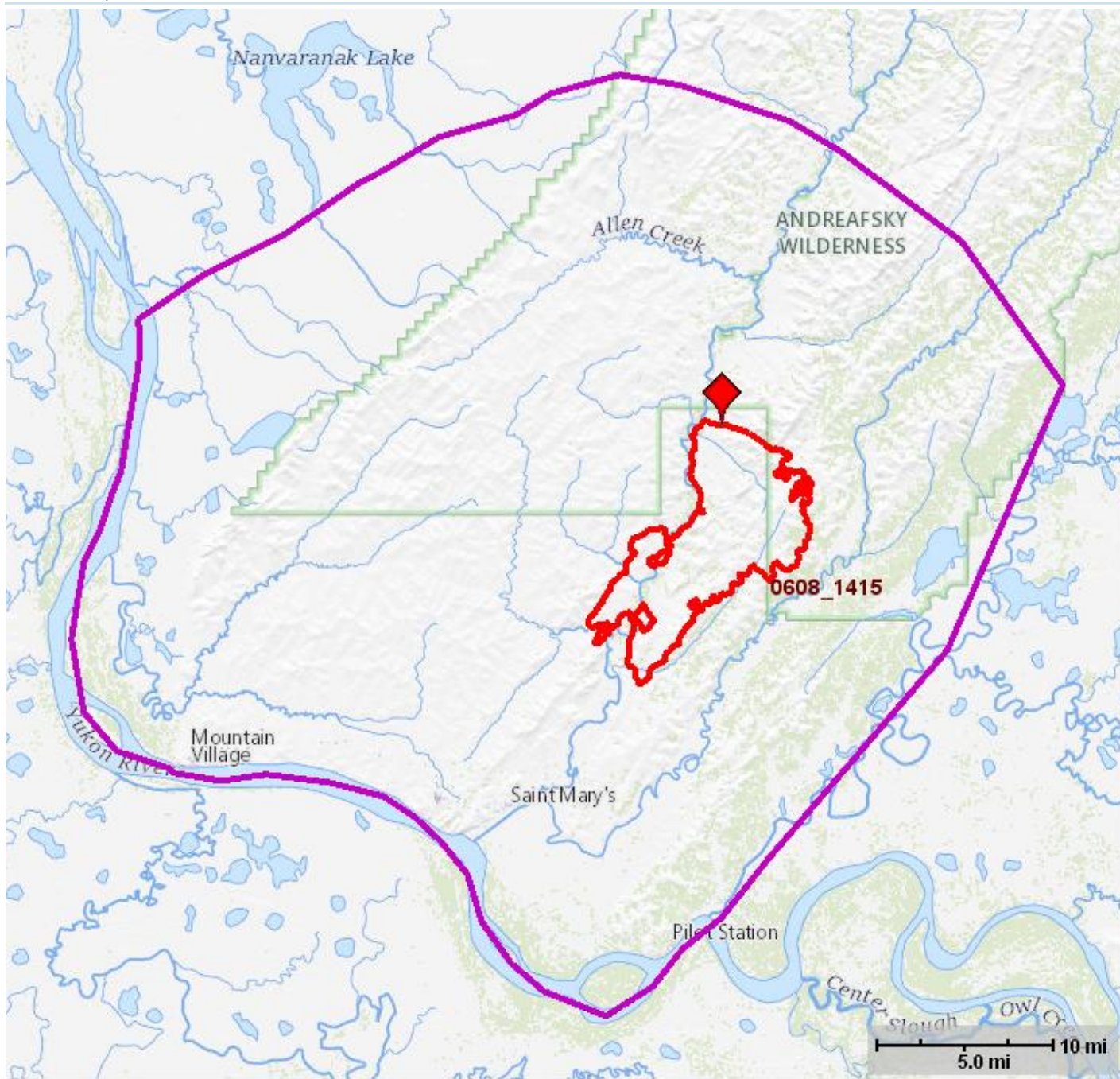
Editor Name	Action	Date (CDT)	Comment
Slaughter, Kent	Approved	06/10/2022 12:51	
Slaughter, Kent	Published	06/10/2022 12:51	
Blihovde, Boyd	Approved	06/10/2022 02:10	
Livingston, Jacob	Accepted	06/09/2022 21:06	
Bouschor, Jeff	Accepted	06/09/2022 20:55	
Polacca, Lynn	Approved	06/09/2022 20:21	
St. Clair, Thomas	Accepted	06/09/2022 19:58	
St. Clair, Thomas	Review Requested	06/09/2022 19:53	
St. Clair, Thomas	Review Requested	06/09/2022 19:52	Please review/approve or make changes. I increased the estimated cost to 10 million. 907-978-0104 if you need assistance. -Tom
St. Clair, Thomas	Created	06/06/2022 17:16	

1.2. Incident Information

Incident Information

NAME	VALUE
Incident Name	East Fork
Unique Fire Identifier	2022-AKGAD-000160
Responsible Unit Name	Alaska Fire Service - Galena Zone
FireCode	PN6K
P-Code	PDPN6K
Point of Origin	62.3658N / 162.7994 W
Incident Size	49,904.6acres
Latest WFDSS Perimeter Size	49,905acres
Incident Cause	Natural
Incident Type	Wildfire
Incident Discovery	05/31/2022 13:57
Contained	
Controlled	
Out	
Jurisdictional Unit	AKYDR - Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge
Jurisdictional Agency(s)	BIA/Tribal, USFWS, ANCSA, State
Geographic Area (prep level)	Alaska (3)
Owner Name(s)	Thomas St. Clair, Jeff Bouschor, Jacob Livingston, Michael Butteri

Incident Map



— Fire Perimeters — Planning Areas ◆ Point of Origin

1.3. Weather

Fire Weather Zone Forecast

000
 FNAK52 PAFG 092232
 FWFWCZ
 Fire Weather Planning Forecast for Western Alaska
 National Weather Service Fairbanks AK
 232 PM AKDT Thu Jun 9 2022
 ...RED FLAG WARNING IN EFFECT FOR FIRE WEATHER ZONES 214 AND
 215...
 .DISCUSSION...Red Flag Warnings remain in effect this afternoon
 and evening for the Lower YK Delta. In these areas, expect north
 winds 15 to 20 mph with gusts to 30 mph with temperatures in the
 70s and minimum RH values of 15 to 30% this afternoon and evening.
 Isolated PM thunderstorms are possible this afternoon and evening
 near McGrath. A mostly dry cold front continues to push south and
 west through the northern portions of Western Interior and West
 Coast this evening and will push into the Lower Yukon Valley
 tomorrow afternoon. The Red Flag conditions in the Lower Yukon
 Valley will improve some tomorrow behind the front with slightly
 cooler temperatures and slightly more moisture in the atmosphere.
 AKZ212-101645-
 Eastern Norton Sound and Nulato Hills-
 Including the cities of Unalakleet, Stebbins, St Michael, Elim,
 Koyuk, and Shaktoolik
 232 PM AKDT Thu Jun 9 2022

	Tonight	Fri	Fri Night	Sat
Cloud cover	Mclear	Mclear	Clear	Mclear
Precip type	None	None	None	None
Chance precip (%)	0	0	0	0
Temp (24h trend)	39-49 (-4)	64-74 (-8)	32-42	51-61
RH % (24h trend)	68-83 (-15)	18-33 (+4)	73-88	23-38
20ftWnd(mph)	NE 11-15 G28	N 13-17 G29	N 14-18 G30	N 11-15 G27
CWR	0	0	0	0
LAL	1	1	1	1

Remarks...None.
 .FORECAST FOR DAYS 3 THROUGH 5...
 .SUNDAY...Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers. Lows 33 to 43. Highs
 53 to 63. North winds around 10 mph.
 .MONDAY...Mostly cloudy. Lows 34 to 44. Highs 56 to 66. North
 winds around 5 mph.
 .TUESDAY...Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of
 thunderstorms. Lows 37 to 47. Highs 63 to 73. Light winds.
 \$\$
 CCC Jun 22

1.4. Modeling

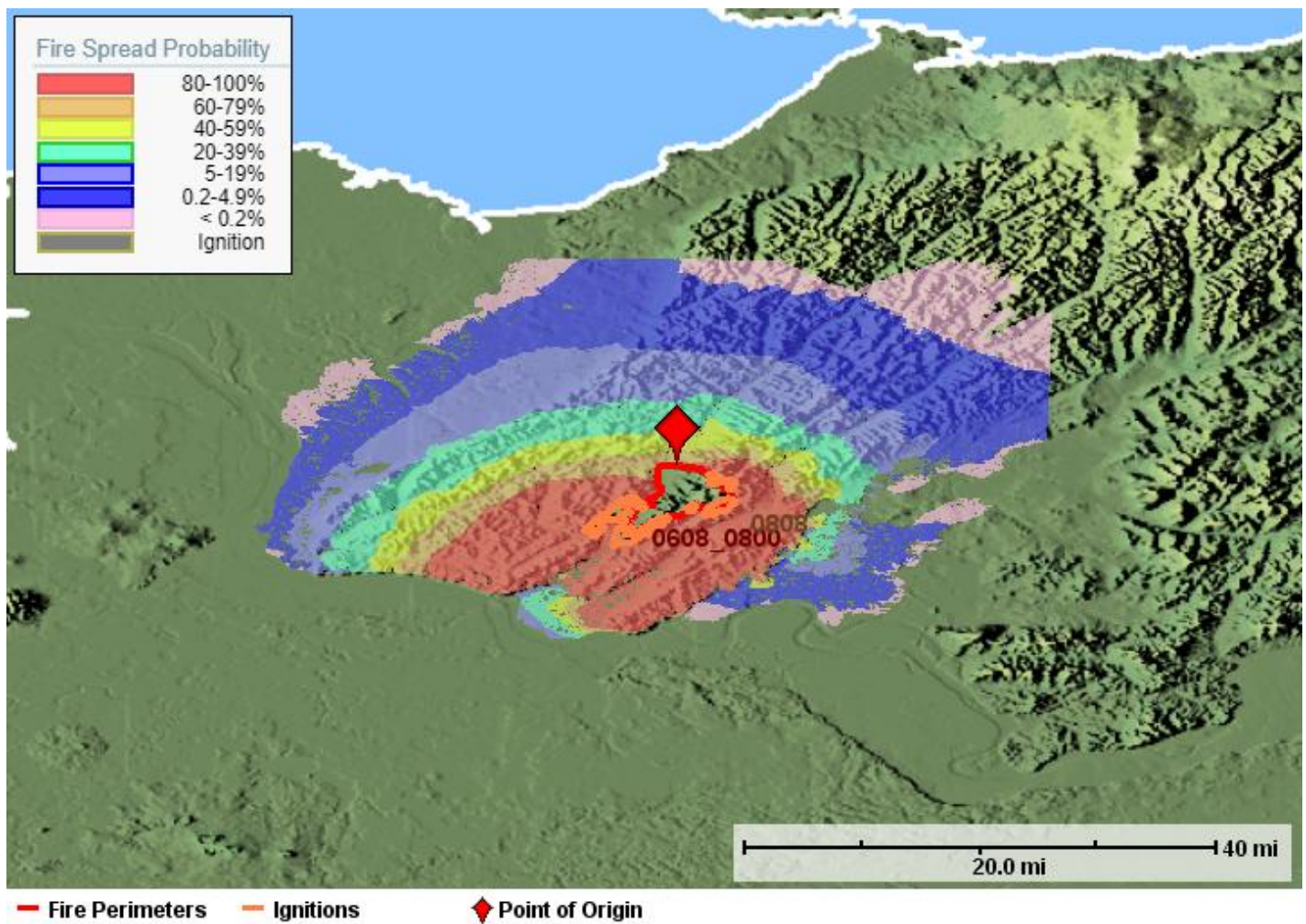
FSPro (0609 7d 1000f - Started on 06-09-2022)

FSPro General Information

NAME	VALUE
Analysis Name	0609 7d 1000f
Analysis Start	06/09/2022
Duration	7 days
Simulations	1000 fires

Time (CDT)	User	Note
06/09/2022 03:38	Saperstein, Lisa	7 day analysis starting 6/9, ignition based on VIIRS hotspots available mid-afternoon 6/8. Analysis took about 8.5 hours to run. Used 3 days of forecast weather, adjusted winds based on Spot forecast. Used Reindeer RAWs. Elevated burn periods to reflect reports of nighttime fire activity and low RH recovery. Made several fuel model adjustments; see notes.

FSPro Analysis '0609 7d 1000f'



1.5. Risk

Relative Risk

NAME	VALUE
Relative Risk	High
Duration	High
Saved By	St. Clair, Thomas
Completed	06/09/2022 17:21 CDT

Relative Risk Notes

Now that the fire has become established, it will likely last through the season. There is a good chance that coastal moisture will at some point subdue the fire. Currently the weather forecast does not call for definitive moisture on this fire.

Values Notes

The fire is very near St. Mary's and conversations about evacuations are occurring. The communities of Pitka's Point, Mountain Village, and Pilot Station are also threatened and so are several native allotments, fish camps, cabins, and cultural sites.

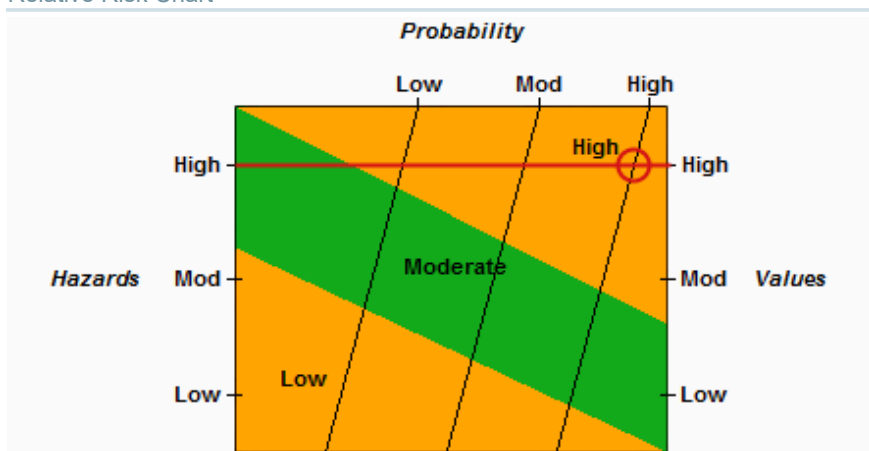
Hazards Notes

Currently, fine fuels and wind are allowing the fire to grow rapidly and move through riparian areas. There isn't any history of large fires in the area but this fire is already around 60,000 acres. A slight cooling trend is indicated by the weather forecast.

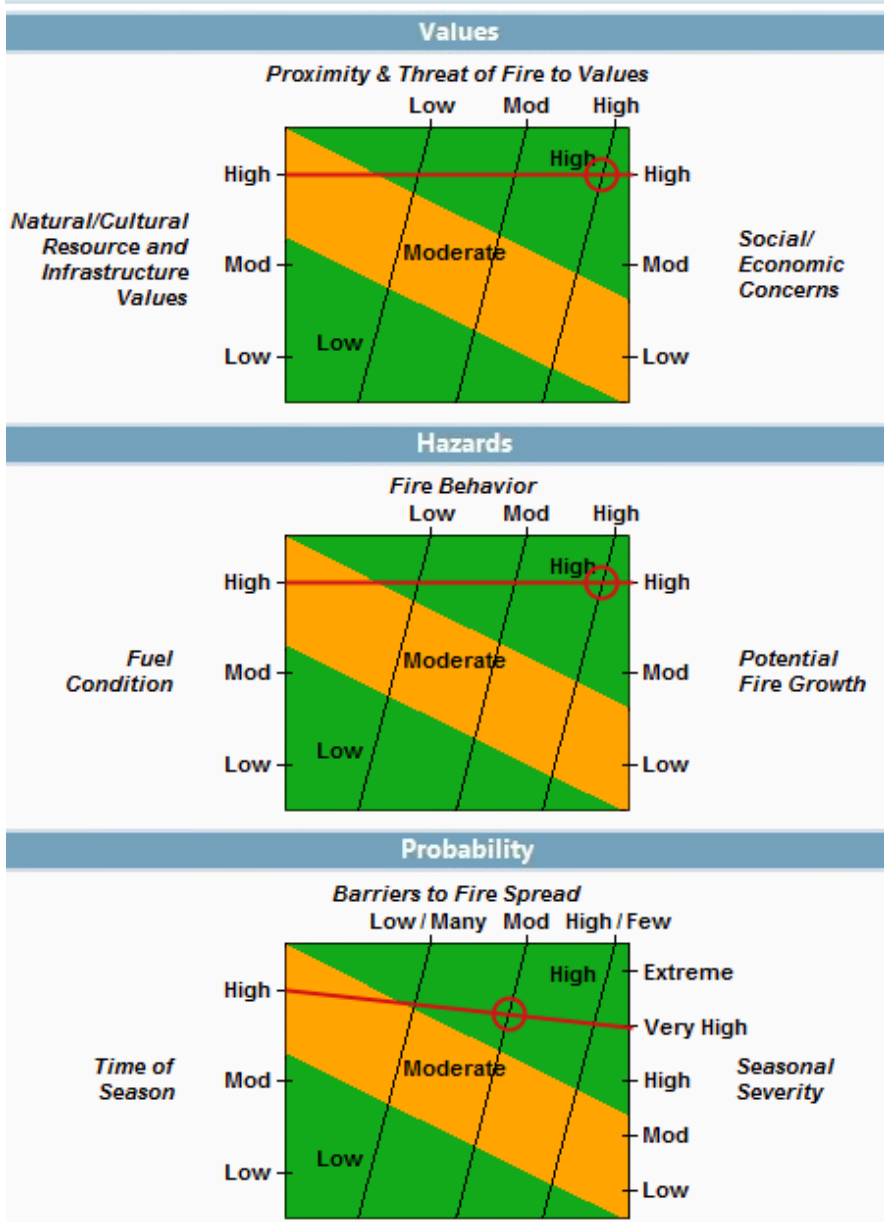
Probability Notes

It is relatively early in the season and the mid/lower duff layers have come available to burn. There are several riparian drainages that could be barriers to spread under damper conditions but are not reliable currently. The East Fork of the Andreafsky river, the Yukon River, and some large lakes near the fire are significant barriers to spread although there is some potential for fire to spot across them.

Relative Risk Chart



Relative Risk Inputs



Organization Assessment

NAME	VALUE
Unit Recommended Org	Type 2
Saved By	St. Clair, Thomas
Completed	06/09/2022 17:30 CDT

Organization Assessment Notes

The majority of items are moderate and a few are high. A type-2 team will be able to integrate stakeholder input and manage the larger operation that is needed.

Relative Risk Notes

Now that the fire has become established, it will likely last through the season. There is a good chance that coastal moisture will at some point subdue the fire. Currently the weather forecast does not call for definitive moisture on this fire.

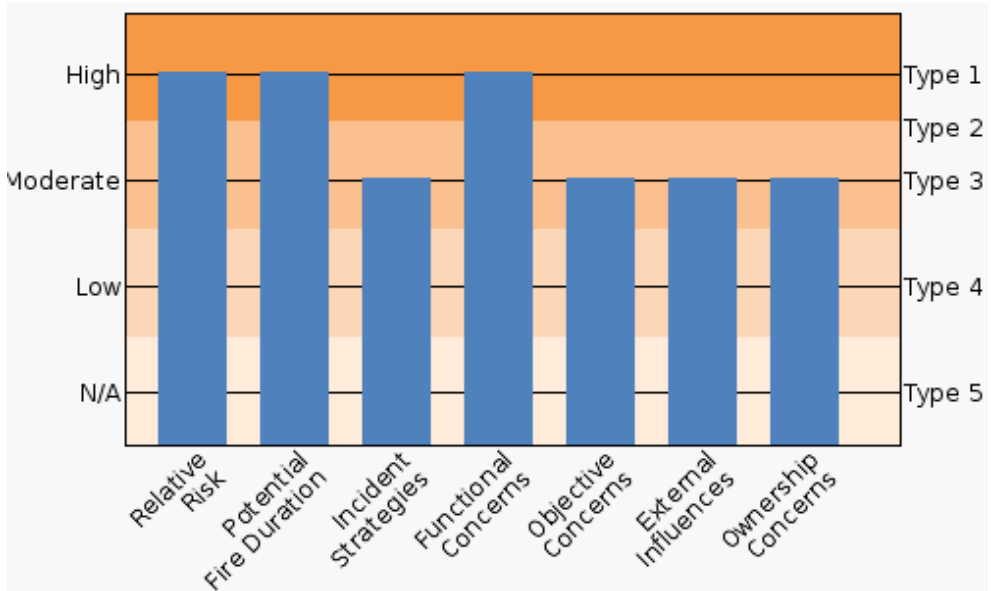
Implementation Difficulty Notes

Logistics and Liaison functions are beyond the scope of the zone's capability. Incident strategies are somewhat limited due to the remote nature of the fire. Operational complexity is at least moderate complexity.

Socio/Political Concerns Notes

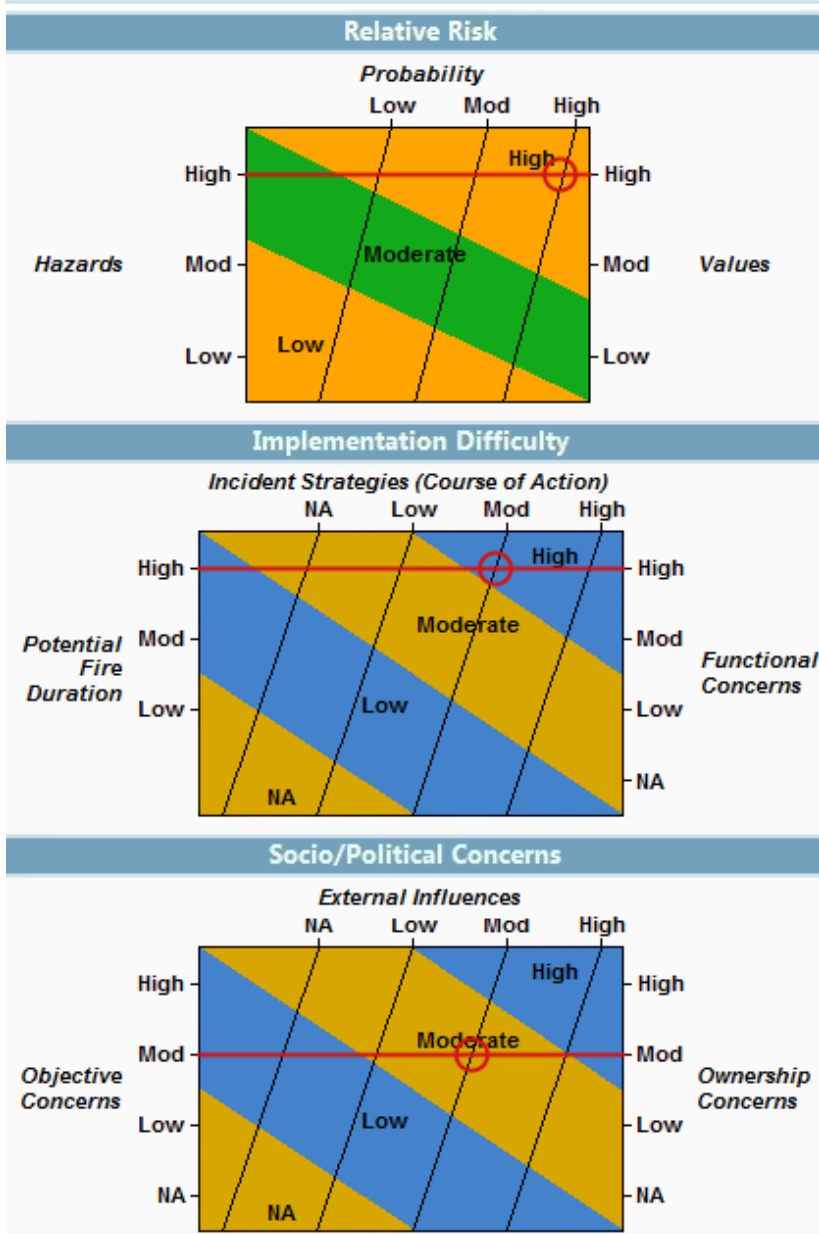
Objectives are moderately complex with several villages and multiple other values to protect. Native entities are fairly complex to include: Regional and Village ANCSA corporations, tribes, allottees, BIA, and the regional non-profit corporation as well as any village governing bodies.

Organization Assessment Chart



Unit Recommended Org:Type 2

Organization Assessment Inputs



Planning Area Values Inventory Generated at 06/09/2022 16:58

Planning Area Name: 06/10/2022 12:51

Planning Area Size: 1,218,270 acres

Category	Value	Data Source	Currency	Coverage
BIA Admin Boundaries: Algaaciq ANVSA	1,541 acres	American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian Areas	02/03/2022	National
BIA Admin Boundaries: Andreafsky ANVSA	18,016 acres	American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian Areas	02/03/2022	National
BIA Admin Boundaries: Mountain Village ANVSA	39,999 acres	American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian Areas	02/03/2022	National
BIA Admin Boundaries: Pilot Station ANVSA	1,204 acres	American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian Areas	02/03/2022	National
BIA Admin Boundaries: Pitkas Point ANVSA	1,028 acres	American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian Areas	02/03/2022	National
Building Clusters: Kusilvak, AK	no data	Various	Various	Available counties
Communication Towers	25	HIFLD	02/17/2022	National
County: Kusilvak, AK	1,218,271 acres	US Census Bureau - TIGER	01/20/2022	National

Category	Value	Data Source	Currency	Coverage
Electric Power Plants	3	Homeland Security Open Data	07/09/2020	CONUS, AK, HI, Puerto Rico, Guam, N. Marian Islands, and US Virgin Islands
Estimated Population	2,462	LandScan USA	2018	CONUS, AK, HI, PR
Landowner Category: ANCSA	344,602 acres	PAD-US 2.0, AICC, BIA/WFDSS, Census	10/09/2020	National
Landowner Category: BIA	16,080 acres	PAD-US 2.0, AICC, BIA/WFDSS, Census	10/09/2020	National
Landowner Category: Private	966 acres	PAD-US 2.0, AICC, BIA/WFDSS, Census	10/09/2020	National
Landowner Category: State	3,506 acres	PAD-US 2.0, AICC, BIA/WFDSS, Census	10/09/2020	National
Landowner Category: USFWS	853,271 acres	PAD-US 2.0, AICC, BIA/WFDSS, Census	10/09/2020	National
Natl Wild Scenic Rivers	130.8 miles	USFS Enterprise Data Warehouse	07/29/2019	National
Other Areas: Andreafsky River	9,512 acres	PAD-US 2.1	09/15/2020	National
Responsible Agency: BLM	1,217,909 acres	Various	03/15/2022	AK, CA, ID, MT, NM, MN
Responsible Agency: State	370 acres	Various	03/15/2022	AK, CA, ID, MT, NM, MN
Wilderness: Andreafsky Wilderness	478,836 acres	Wilderness Institute, University of Montana	12/27/2021	National

Coverage of Values Queried that Produced No Results

BLM Buildings (National), BLM Horse and Burro (National), BLM Oil / Gas Leases (National), BLM Range Allotments (National), Campgrounds (National (BLM and USFS only)), Class 1 Airsheds (National), Electric Sub Stations (CONUS, AK, HI, Puerto Rico, Guam, N. Marian Islands, and US Virgin Islands), Electric Transmission Lines (CONUS, AK, HI, Puerto Rico, Guam, N. Marian Islands, and US Virgin Islands), Est Ground Evac Time (CONUS), Habitat (National), IRA (National), Mines (National), NPS Buildings (National), NRA (National), Natl Historic Trails (National), Natl Recreation Trails (National), Natl Scenic Byways (National), Natl Scenic Trails (National), Oil and Gas Pipelines (National), Ozone Non-Attainment (National), Particulates Non-Attainment (National), Protecting Unit (AK, CA, ID, MT, NM, MN), Roads (National), Sage Grouse Habitat (National), TNC Lands (National), USFS Buildings (National), USFS Trails (CONUS, AK, PR), USFWS Trails (CONUS, AK, HI, PR), WSA (National)

1.6. Objectives

Incident FMU/Strategic Objective Code List

Unit	FMU/Strat Obj Code	Acres
AKAKA	AKAKA - Native Allotments	16,076
AKCAN	AKCAN - Calista Corporation	4.4
AKDNS	AKDNS	591
AKDTS	AKDTS	3,579
AKYDR	AKYDR - Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge	853,164
AKYDR	AKYDR Wilderness - Wilderness Areas	0

Spatial Fire Planning Inventory

Category	Value	Data Source	Currency	Coverage
AK Fire Mgmt Options: Full	434,495 acres	Alaska Interagency Coordination Center	04/05/2022	Alaska Only
AK Fire Mgmt Options: Limited	783,910 acres	Alaska Interagency Coordination Center	04/05/2022	Alaska Only

Incident Objective List

Activated	Incident Objective
06/10/2022	Provide for Safety of the firefighters and the public.
06/10/2022	Protect the communities of St. Mary's, Pitka's Point, Mountain Village, Pilot Station.
06/06/2022	Provide protection for identified values at risk while allowing fire to maintain it's natural role in the ecosystem where no values are threatened.
06/10/2022	If Native Allotments need to be prioritized, groups of Allotments are higher priority than single Allotments. Allotments with structures would be highest priority, then Allotments with trees, then Allotments with no clearly visible value.
06/10/2022	Provide initial attack within the planning area and as requested by the Galena Zone.
06/10/2022	Provide accurate and timely information to the local communities and all involved agencies and cooperators.
06/10/2022	Update the known sites database with collected information.
06/10/2022	Plan for and conduct suppression repair activities once operational conditions allow.

Incident Requirement List

Activated	Incident Requirement
06/10/2022	Follow all COVID guidelines established by the communities within the planning area.

Strategic Objective List

Unit	Shape/FMU	Activated	Strategic Objective
AK Fire Mgmt Options		04/24/2019	<p>"AIWFMP Full Fire Management Option The default initial action is to mobilize resources to protect the area and/or sites and suppress the fire without compromising public or firefighter safety. Initial action priorities are to:"</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Protect human life. 2. 3. Protect qualifying sites and natural resources from damage by wildfire. 4. Contain fires at the smallest acreage reasonably possible in order to limit short and long-term threats to values.
AK Fire Mgmt Options		04/24/2019	<p>"AIWFMP Limited Fire Management Option The default initial action is to conduct surveillance, assessment, and site protection as warranted. Initial action priorities are to:"</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Protect human life. 2. 3. Protect qualifying sites and natural resources from damage by wildfire. 4.

Strategic Objective List

Unit	Shape/FMU	Activated	Strategic Objective
			5. Allow fires to burn naturally to the extent possible in order to protect, maintain, and enhance natural and cultural resources and maintain natural fire regimes.
AKAKA	<Unit>	07/02/2015	Protect Native Allotments from fire and suppression activity impacts.
AKYDR	<Unit>	06/02/2015	<p><u>Yukon Delta Refuge Fire Management Plan</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect human life, settlements, sensitive biological communities, cultural and historic sites, native allotments, privately owned and permitted cabins, and refuge administrative facilities and equipment (Refuge FMP pg 24) • Restore, perpetuate, and protect native wildlife species and habitat by maintaining a diversity of plant communities (pg 25) • Maintain fire-related ecological processes to the maximum extent feasible (pg 25)

Management Requirement List

Unit	Shape/FMU	Activated	Management Requirement
	AK Fire Mgmt Options	04/27/2022	<p align="center">Alaska Interagency Wildfire Management Plan Statewide Management Requirements</p> <p align="center">AIWFMP Statewide Management Requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weigh the cost and environmental impacts of suppression actions against the value of resources warranting protection. Consider risk to firefighters and the public in all fire management decisions. • To the extent possible, minimum impact suppression tactics should be used. Firelines will be constructed in a manner that minimizes erosion and will follow natural contours wherever possible. Indirect attack will be used 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. • Jurisdictional Agencies will be made aware of all support areas such as camps, staging areas, and helispots located on their lands. • If a game animal is killed in defense of life or property (DLP) on an incident, an Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) DLP report will be filed, and the Jurisdictional Agency(ies) will be notified. • Base camps, spike camps, helispots and other support areas should be located in natural clearings if possible. The construction of helispots should be minimized. Any opening created for support areas will be cut with an irregular perimeter. Such areas will be kept clean so as not to attract animals and will be cleaned up before departure of the last suppression personnel. • Support areas on private lands or Native Allotments require a land use agreement. No resources (e.g., firewood) will be removed from private lands or Native Allotments without an approved agreement. Agreements involving Native Allotments must be prepared by the BIA or the local BIA service provider. • The use of tracked or off-road vehicles requires approval by the Jurisdictional Agency(ies) prior to use. • 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, comply with the stipulations and notification requirements in the ADF&G statewide <i>Fish Habitat Permit FH20-SW-0001 Amendment 1</i>. • Protecting and Jurisdictional Agencies will coordinate with State of Alaska land managers if wildland fire 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 fire 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. Waterbodies known to harbor invasive species will not be used as water sources for air or ground-based water delivery equipment unless needed to protect life or property. If used, equipment will be cleaned and sanitized before the next use. Communicate concerns, questions, and needs regarding invasive species to jurisdictional resource advisors in a timely manner.
	AK Fire Mgmt Options	04/27/2022	

Management Requirement List

Unit	Shape/FMU	Activated	Management Requirement
<h2>Alaska Interagency Wildfire Management Plan Statewide Management Requirements</h2> <h3>AIWFMP Statewide Management Requirements (continued)</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application of aerial fire retardant near lakes, wetlands, streams, rivers, and sources of human water consumption or areas adjacent to water sources should be avoided. A minimum of 300 feet is identified in the <i>Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations</i> (Red Book). Individual Jurisdictional Agencies may have more restrictive retardant use guidelines. • Suppression activities including flight patterns on or near cultural sites or sites designated as "Avoid" must be coordinated with the Jurisdictional Agency. • Jurisdictional Agencies should be consulted concerning any operational restrictions in designated wilderness areas. • Jurisdictional Agencies will communicate planned fuels treatment locations to incident management organizations for consideration when locating firelines. • Structure protection (not suppression) activities by wildland firefighters will be limited 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. Suppression efforts on vehicle fires by wildland firefighters will be limited to preventing spread into the wildlands and will be undertaken 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. Suppression actions will be limited to preventing spread into the wildlands and will be undertaken 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. • Any discovery by firefighters of potential unexploded ordnance (UXO) or other potentially hazardous materials (e.g., mining sites) will be immediately reported through proper channels. Firefighters will remain clear of the area until the threat has been evaluated and mitigated. 			
AKAKA	<Unit>	07/13/2015	Provide BIA and/or compact provider with documentation of impacts to Native Allotments caused by fire or fire suppression actions.
AKAKA	<Unit>	07/13/2015	Ensure BIA and/or compact provider is kept informed regarding strategy, risks, and progress on incidents involving Native Allotments.
AKAKA	<Unit>	07/09/2020	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 Allottee 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.
AKYDR	<Unit>	06/02/2015	<u>Yukon Delta Refuge Fire Management Plan</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The use of aerial retardant for anything other than an immediate threat to life must be authorized by the Refuge Manager. • Heavy equipment use on FWS lands requires agency administrator approval. (pg 32)
AKYDR	AKYDR	06/09/2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide timely and accurate fire information to the Manager or FMO as fire conditions warrant. <i>Coordinate dissemination of fire information including smoke forecasts to the public and press with the Refuge Manager and/or FMO.</i>
AKYDR	AKYDR Wilderness	06/09/2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Wilderness Act of 1964 prohibits the use of motor vehicles, motorboats, motorized equipment, landing of aircraft, and other forms of mechanical transport in Wilderness, however some exceptions are granted if necessary for the control of fire. <i>Seek prior approval by the Refuge Manager (or designee) before conducting these activities to ensure compliance.</i>

Management Requirement List

Unit	Shape/FMU	Activated	Management Requirement
			<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If management action is needed, use low impact methods that preserve wilderness character. Use indirect suppression and avoid ground disturbing activities whenever possible so as to maintain a natural environment with very little evidence of human-caused change.

1.7. Course of Action

Course of Action

Active	Inactive	Action Item
06/10/2022		Protect communities, native allotments, and other values at risk.
06/10/2022		There are limited values at risk from fire spread to the north.

1.8. Cost

Estimated Final Cost

<u>NAME</u>	<u>VALUE</u>
<u>Estimated Final Cost</u>	<u>\$10,000,000</u>
<u>Method(s) Used</u>	<u>Historic Costs</u>

Comments

Cost Based on mobilizing a Type-2 team and using aerial support the next few days. Assumes that part of the team will be in Fairbanks and only the personnel that need to will be stationed at the fire. Estimated cost for just a two-week assignment for the type-2 team is 7.5 million. Logistics aircraft will be a significant cost in addition to tactical aircraft.

1.9. Rationale

6.9.2022 Rationale

Our decision is to mobilize a type-2 team in order to address the larger operation and complexities interacting with all the stakeholders now that the fire is imminently threatening the communities of St. Mary's, Pitka's Point, Mountain Village, and Pilot Station. There are several other values threatened as well including cabins, fish camps, native allotments, cultural sites and fish weirs. There is a cooling trend in the weather but no definitive moisture forecast for the fire. The fire has become established and will likely last the summer. If the type-2 team is successful in reducing the complexity of the incident, no additional decision will be needed to transition to a lower complexity.

Agencies involved in this decision are AFS for operational, fiscal, and ANCSA jurisdictional approval as well as USFWS, DNR, and BIA for jurisdictional approval.