



# Lost Horse Creek Incident Decision

Published  
08/04/23 12:50

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# 1. Decision

## 1.1. Decision Summary

### Decision Information

NAME	VALUE
Published	08/04/2023 12:50 CDT
Estimated Cost	\$4,500,000
Incident Owner(s)	Michael Butteri, Thomas St. Clair
Editor(s)	Jeremy Douse, lesley dewilde, Robert Allen, Tim Hammond
Reviewer(s)	Peter Butteri, Sarah Saarloos, Thomas St. Clair
Approver(s)	Jeremy Douse, lesley dewilde, Robert Allen, Tim Hammond
Natl Preparedness Level	3

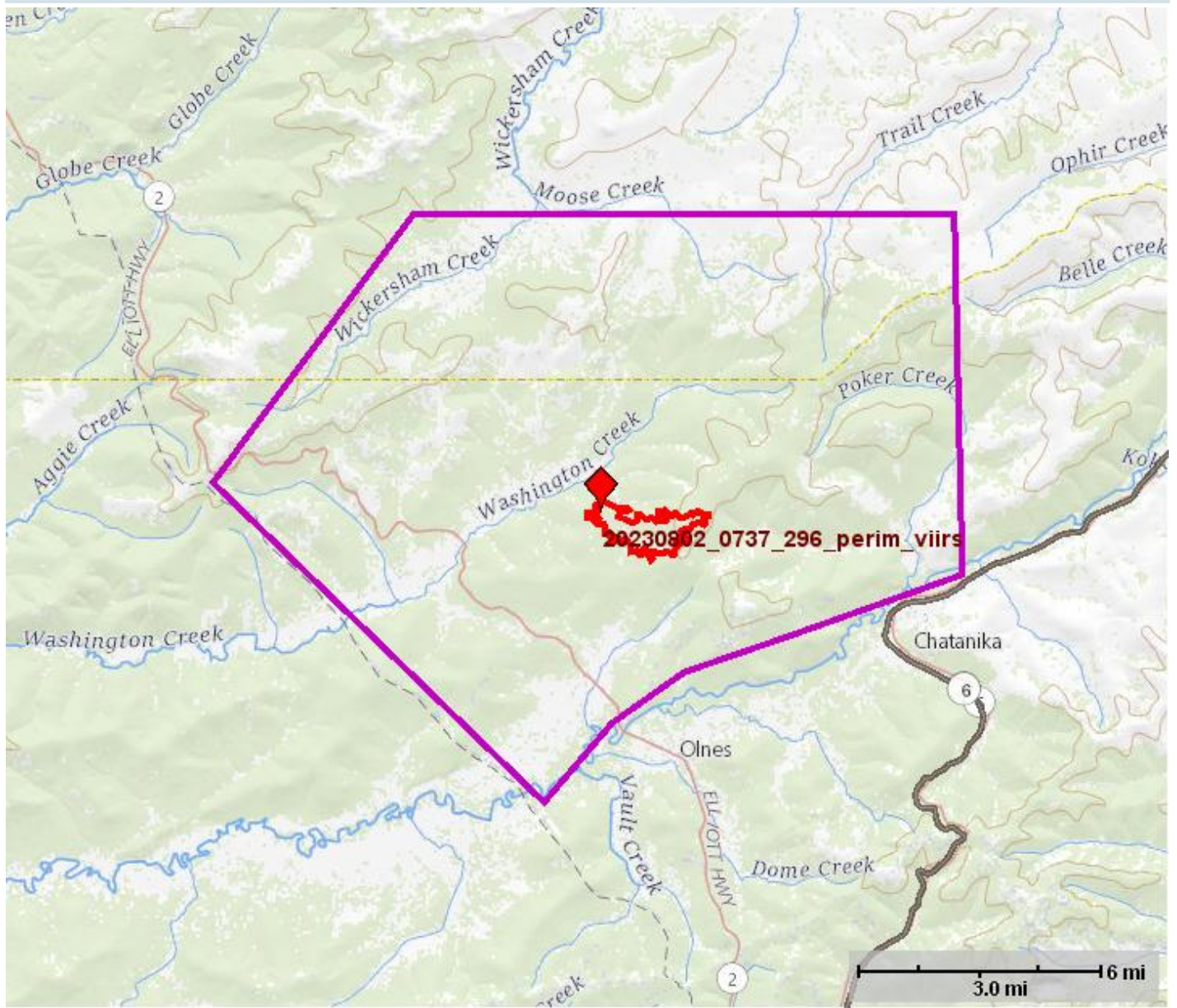
### Decision History

Editor Name	Action	Date (CDT)	Comment
dewilde, lesley	Approved	08/04/2023 12:50	
dewilde, lesley	Published	08/04/2023 12:50	
Allen, Robert	Approved	08/04/2023 11:03	
Hammond, Tim	Approved	08/04/2023 10:13	
St. Clair, Thomas	Accepted	08/04/2023 09:30	
Douse, Jeremy	Approved	08/04/2023 09:00	
Butteri, Michael	Review Requested	08/04/2023 01:20	
Butteri, Michael	Review Requested	08/04/2023 01:19	Sending this to Rob and Jeremy for initial review. Can do last minute edits and send out for full approval at 0900 tomorrow morning.
Butteri, Michael	Created	08/04/2023 01:03	

## 1.2. Incident Information

### Incident Information

NAME	VALUE
Incident Name	Lost Horse Creek
Unique Fire Identifier	2023-AKFAS-311296
Responsible Unit Name	Fairbanks Area
FireCode	QG23
P-Code	
Point of Origin	65.16225N / 147.7464 W
Incident Size	1,900acres
Latest WFDSS Perimeter Size	1,167acres
Incident Cause	Natural
Incident Type	Wildfire
Incident Discovery	07/28/2023 14:59
Contained	
Controlled	
Out	
Jurisdictional Unit	AKDNS - Alaska Department of Natural Resources
Jurisdictional Agency(s)	BIA/Tribal, BLM, State
Geographic Area (prep level)	Alaska (3)
Owner Name(s)	Michael Butteri, Thomas St. Clair



— Fire Perimeters    — Planning Areas    ◆ Point of Origin

# 1.3. Weather

## Fire Weather Zone Forecast

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000  
FNAK53 PAFG 032237  
FWFAFG  
Fire Weather Planning Forecast for Interior Alaska  
National Weather Service Fairbanks AK  
237 PM AKDT Thu Aug 3 2023  
...FIRE WEATHER WATCH IN EFFECT FOR FIRE WEATHER ZONES 221, 222,  
223, 224, 225 AND 226...  
.DISCUSSION...This evening will be similar to yesterday with lighter  
winds from the west with min RH values a few percentage points  
higher, although still into the upper 20 % to low 30 % range in  
the Tanana Valley and SE Interior.  
South chinook flow develops late Fri with rising temps into the mid 80s  
and min RH into the mid 20 % range to low 30 % range.  
Saturday and Sunday is looking hotter and drier with gusty winds  
in the AK Range passes 20-40 mph with the peak of the chinook likely  
on Sunday, although it may be slightly drier on Saturday. South winds  
will be gusty through the Tanana Valley on Sunday, as well.  
AKZ222-041645-  
Middle Tanana Valley-  
Including the cities of Fairbanks, Fort Wainwright, Eielson AFB,  
Ester, North Pole, Moose Creek, Two Rivers, Fox, Chatanika,  
Chena Hot Springs, and Sourdough Camp  
237 PM AKDT Thu Aug 3 2023  
...FIRE WEATHER WATCH IN EFFECT FROM SUNDAY MORNING THROUGH  
SUNDAY EVENING...  

	Tonight	Fri	Fri Night	Sat
Cloud cover	Pcldy	Pcldy	Pcldy	McLEAR
Precip type	None	None	None	None
Chance precip (%)	0	0	0	0
Temp (24h trend)	45-55 (0)	75-85 (+2)	47-57	79-89
RH % (24h trend)	85-100 (+2)	27-42 (0)	85-100	23-38
20ftWnd(mph)	Lgt/Var	Lgt/Var	Lgt/Var	S 10-15 G25
CWR	0	0	0	0
LAL	1	1	1	1

Remarks...None.  
.FORECAST FOR DAYS 3 THROUGH 5...  
.SUNDAY...Partly cloudy. Areas of smoke. Lows 48 to 58. Highs  
78 to 88. East winds around 5 mph.  
.MONDAY...Mostly cloudy. Areas of smoke. Lows 48 to 58. Highs  
76 to 86. Southeast winds around 5 mph.  
.TUESDAY...Mostly cloudy. A 40 percent chance of showers. Lows  
48 to 58. Highs 72 to 82. Southeast winds around 5 mph.  
\$\$  
AG Aug 23

## 1.4. Modeling

FSPPro (0803 Fcst 7d 1kf; remove bin 5; fcst bin+1 - Started on 08-03-2023)

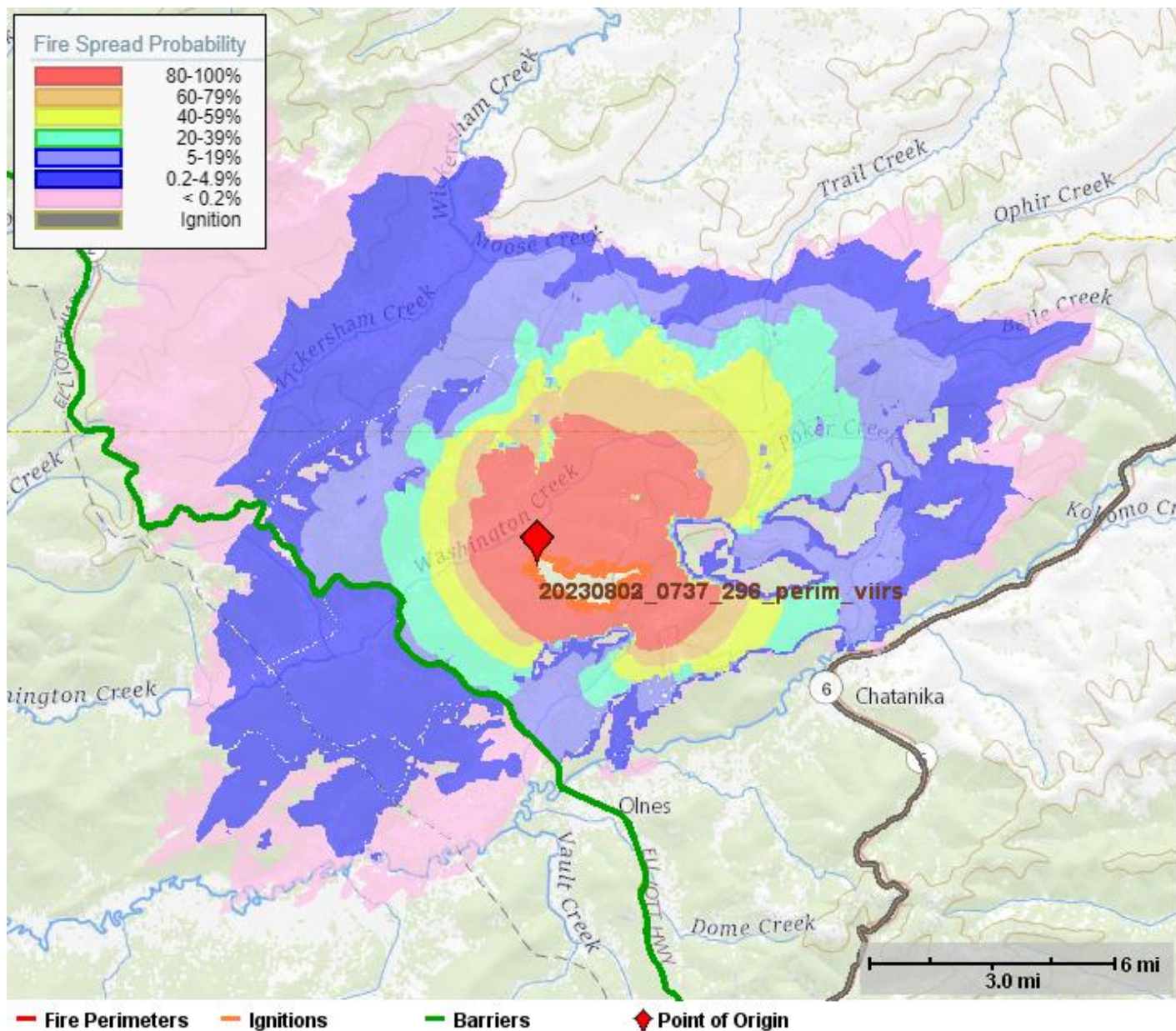
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### FSPPro General Information

NAME	VALUE
Analysis Name	0803 Fcst 7d 1kf; remove bin 5; fcst bin+1
Analysis Start	08/03/2023
Duration	7 days
Simulations	1000 fires

Time (CDT)	User	Note
08/03/2023 17:33	Sorbel, Brian	This 7-day FSPPro analysis starting 8/3 uses a perimeter generated from VIIRS heat detections through 0700 8/3 as an ignition source. The Elliott Hwy was the only barrier used in this analysis. The 2021 Haystack fire was coded into the landscape as a low rate of spread fuel type. A three-day forecast was used which showed winds in the 5-7 mph range switching from west to south over the three-day period. Day 3 of the forecast (8/5) has southerly winds at 5 mph. Note, by day 4 (8/6) winds in the area are predicted to increase substantially from the south, however that was outside the 3-day forecast window for this analysis. This analysis should be rerun on 8/4, or later, if a chinook event looks likely to shape up within the typical three day forecast window used in FSPPro analyses.

[FSPPro Analysis '0803 Fcst 7d 1kf; remove bin 5; fcst bin+1'](#)



FSPro

## 1.5. Risk

### Relative Risk

NAME	VALUE
Relative Risk	High
Duration	Moderate
Saved By	Butteri, Michael
Completed	08/04/2023 00:31 CDT

### Relative Risk Notes

Threats to the public and homes within the immediate vicinity of the fire are high. Fuels and fire behavior are in the very high range, and there is currently no end to the hot weather in the forecast. Potential for stronger winds as the current high pressure system breaks down. Minimal fire history in the area between the fire and values at risk.

### Values Notes

This fire started 3.5 miles northwest of Haystack subdivision, and on 8/2 was within 2 miles of structures, causing a "Go" evacuation order for parts of the community. Himilaya subdivision is 3.5 miles to the southwest. There are several Native allotments 2.5 miles to the southwest. There are The fire is within 3 miles of the Poker Flats Research Area, where significant study areas are at risk. To the North in the White Mountains Recreation Area there are multiple recreation cabins and trail systems. Social/Economic Concerns: Smoke from this fire is immediately visible to residents of the Haystack subdivision, Fairbanks, and surrounding communities. Longer Term: Historic Chatanika Lodge- 8 miles east. Whitefish Campsite (a.k.a Lower Chatanika Rec Area)- 5 miles south, Olnes subdivision and Olnes recreation area - 7 miles south

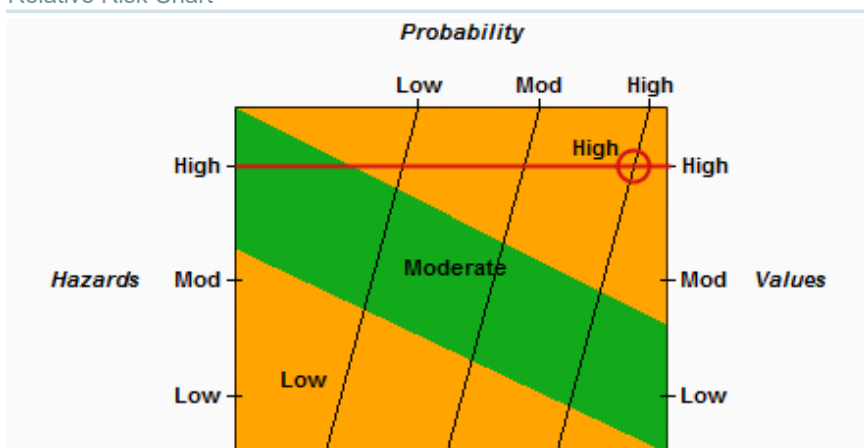
### Hazards Notes

Precipitation throughout the summer has been spotty, and fuel conditions are unusually dry for August, after over a week of unseasonable hot weather. Fine fuel moisture codes are now very high to extreme, and the lower level Drought Code has moved in the "Very High" range for the area. Fire behavior increased on 8/2, with high spread rates and short range spotting in the absence of strong general winds. Possible stronger winds in the forecast as southerly flow moves in. In the short and medium term, there is high potential for fire growth, but the majority of the typical Alaska season has passed, so the probability of long term growth is diminished.

### Probability Notes

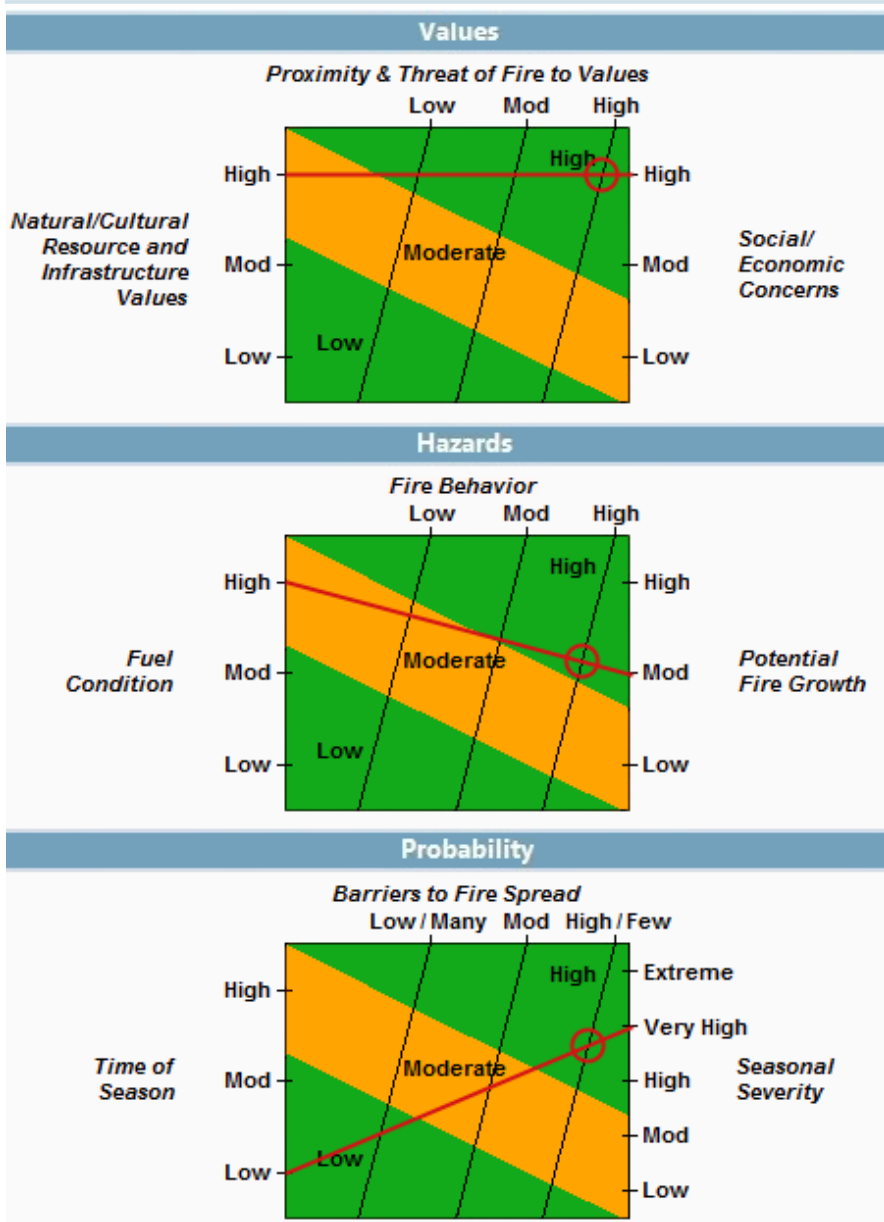
Though it is late in the typical Alaska fire season, there have been outlier years with no precipitation or season ending weather until September. The burning period is starting to shorten, though dry fuels and forecast for extremely hot weather into the foreseeable future could support large fire growth. Barriers to fire spread between the fire and values at risk are minimal The Elliot highway corridor, Haystack Fire scar (2021), Chatanika River, and fuel breaks around Himilaya subdivision and Haystack may provide some help.

### Relative Risk Chart





Relative Risk Inputs



Organization Assessment

NAME	VALUE
Unit Recommended Org	Type 2/CIMT
Saved By	Butteri, Michael
Completed	08/04/2023 01:17 CDT

**Organization Assessment Notes**

Due to the immediate threat to communities, high visibility, and the potential for point protection and suppression, a Type 2 IMT is the recommended organizational structure for this incident.

**Relative Risk Notes**

Threats to the public and homes within the immediate vicinity of the fire are high. Fuels and fire behavior are in the very high range, and there is currently no end to the hot weather in the forecast. Potential for stronger winds as the current high pressure system breaks down. Minimal fire history in the area between the fire and values at risk.

**Implementation Difficulty Notes**

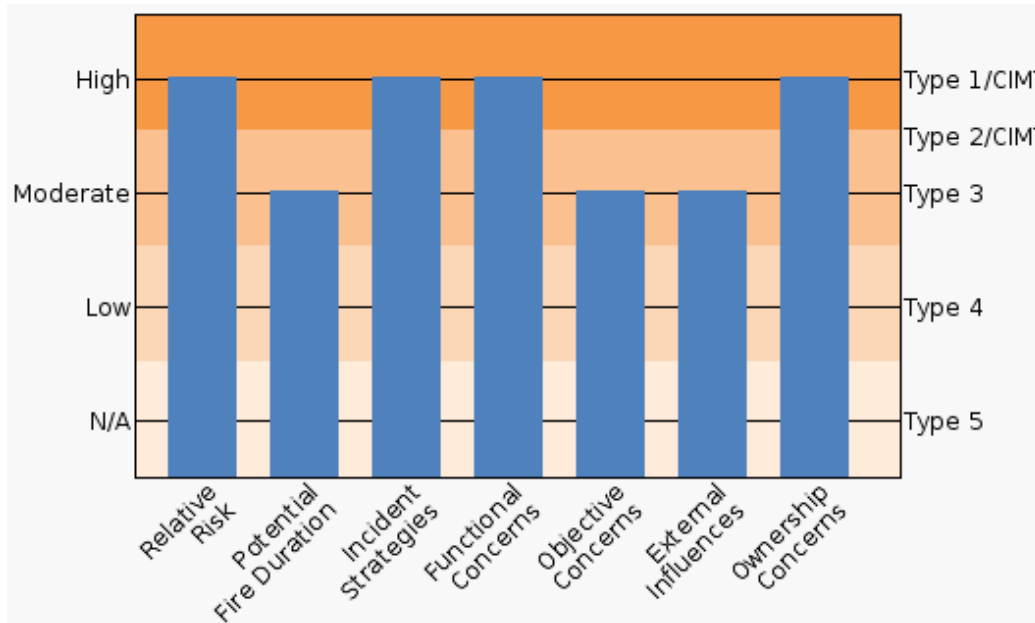
Rapid fire growth in the short and medium term may cause additional threat to private properties and structures, ongoing coordination with local cooperators for evacuation planning. A combination of point protection and containment where feasible may be employed to

meet protection objectives. Firefighting resources may be hard to get due to competition and fire danger in the Lower-48. Road systems and proximity to Fairbanks may reduce logistical complexity.

### Socio/Political Concerns Notes

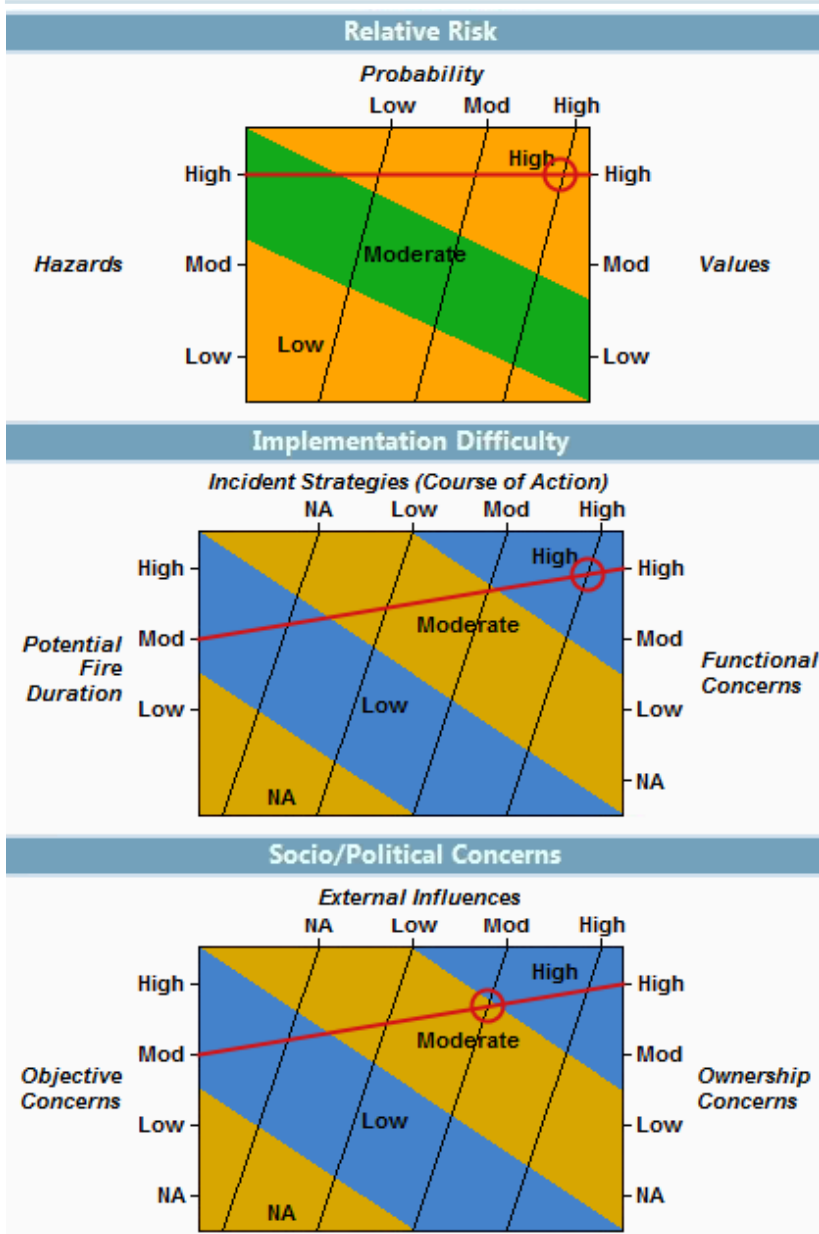
Due to the proximity of this fire to several Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB) subdivisions, and significant population, public interest will be high. The smoke column from this fire is visible from Fairbanks, and smoke may affect the air quality in the Fairbanks bowl and travel corridors.

Organization Assessment Chart



Unit Recommended Org: Type 2/CIMT

Organization Assessment Inputs



Planning Area Values Inventory Generated at 08/03/2023 00:51

Planning Area Name: 08/04/2023 12:50

Planning Area Size: 117,257 acres

Category	Value	Data Source	Currency	Coverage
BLM Buildings	2	BLM Branch of Architecture and Engineering	12/14/2021	National
Building Clusters: Fairbanks North Star, AK	no data	Various	Various	Available counties
Building Clusters: Yukon-Koyukuk, AK	no data	Various	Various	Available counties
County: Fairbanks North Star, AK	80,987 acres	US Census Bureau - TIGER	01/20/2022	National
County: Yukon-Koyukuk, AK	36,259 acres	US Census Bureau - TIGER	01/20/2022	National
Landowner Category: BIA	495 acres	WFMEDA	05/22/2022	National
Landowner Category: BLM	46,841 acres	WFMEDA	05/22/2022	National
Landowner Category: County	3,495 acres	WFMEDA	05/22/2022	National

Category	Value	Data Source	Currency	Coverage
Landowner Category: Private	3,944 acres	WFMRDA	05/22/2022	National
Landowner Category: State	62,518 acres	WFMRDA	05/22/2022	National
Natl Scenic Byways	13.8 miles	National Park Service	02/28/2019	National
Oil and Gas Pipelines	1.6 miles	HSIP Gold 2015	04/2015	National
Responsible Agency: BLM	35,896 acres	Various	03/15/2022	AK, CA, ID, MT, NM, MN
Responsible Agency: State	81,349 acres	Various	03/15/2022	AK, CA, ID, MT, NM, MN

#### Coverage of Values Queried that Produced No Results

BLM Horse and Burro (National), BLM Oil / Gas Leases (National), BLM Range Allotments (National), Campgrounds (National (BLM and USFS only)), Class 1 Airsheds (National), Communication Towers (National), Electric Power Plants (CONUS, AK, HI, Puerto Rico, Guam, N. Marian Islands, and US Virgin Islands), Electric Sub Stations (CONUS, Western Canada, 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 (50 States, DC, PR, and VI), NRA (National (CONUS, HI, AK)), Natl Historic Trails (National), Natl Recreation Trails (National), Natl Scenic Trails (National), Natl Wild Scenic Rivers (National), Other Areas (National (CONUS, HI, AK)), Ozone Non-Attainment (National), PODs: Acreage (Contiguous United States), PODs: Count (Contiguous United States), Particulates Non-Attainment (National), Protecting Unit (AK, CA, ID, MT, NM, MN), Roads (National), Sage Grouse Habitat (West and Midwest Regions of the US), TNC Lands (National), USFS Buildings (National), USFS Trails (CONUS, AK, PR), USFWS Trails (CONUS, AK, HI, PR), WSA (National), Wilderness (National)

## 1.6. Benefits

### Benefits

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Last updated by Michael Butteri on 08/03/2023 22:57



### Comments

Fire on the landscape is not desired for resource, ecological or fuels related benefits in this planning area, though fire spread to areas where values are not threatened is an acceptable outcome.

## 1.7. Objectives

### Incident FMU/Strategic Objective Code List

Unit	FMU/Strat Obj Code	Acres
AKAKA	AKAKA - Native Allotments	489
AKDNS	AKDNS	61,804
AKDTS	AKDTS	273
AKEID	AKEID - Eastern Interior Field Office	46,832
AKFAIM	AKFAIM	258
AKFNFX	AKFNFX	3,488
AKPRS	AKPRS	145
AKUAS	AKUAS	3,969

### Spatial Fire Planning Inventory

Category	Value	Data Source	Currency	Coverage
AK Fire Mgmt Options: Critical	16,667 acres	BLM, USFWS	04/07/2023	Alaska Only
AK Fire Mgmt Options: Full	43,262 acres	BLM, USFWS	04/07/2023	Alaska Only
AK Fire Mgmt Options: Limited	48,161 acres	BLM, USFWS	04/07/2023	Alaska Only
AK Fire Mgmt Options: Modified	9,201 acres	BLM, USFWS	04/07/2023	Alaska Only
Mgmt Req: White Mountains RMP	46,781 acres	AKEID	Current	Unit Level

### Incident Objective List

Activated	Incident Objective
08/04/2023	Firefighter and public safety will be the highest priority throughout all phases of the incident. Manage the risk to firefighters and the public by utilizing a risk-based approach to decision making. Ensure quality tradeoff conversations occur with Agency Administrators, partners, and stakeholders.
08/04/2023	Provide protection to residences and permitted structures within Haystack Subdivision, Himilaya Subdivision and along the Elliott and Steese Highway corridors.
08/04/2023	Provide protection to Native Allotments, research infrastructure within Caribou / Poker Flats LTER, and recreational cabins within the White Mountains Recreational Area.
08/04/2023	Minimize the impacts to travel on the Elliott and Steese Highways. Provide a safe travel corridor for travelers.
08/04/2023	Evaluate strategic options of utilizing direct and indirect suppression tactics combined with natural and manmade barriers to protect values.
08/04/2023	Provide fire information to the public and the media as fire conditions warrant. Prepare and disseminate public information for media and local residents. Keep surrounding communities advised of smoke conditions and potential impacts.
08/04/2023	Provide initial attack for new fires within the assigned area.

### Incident Requirement List

Activated	Incident Requirement
08/04/2023	Follow all agency policies on environmental protections and administrative processes.
08/04/2023	Coordinate closures and evacuations of Caribou-Poker Flats with UAF site manager
08/04/2023	Maintain and enhance relationships with local partners, cooperators, landowners and other stakeholders via timely information exchange.
08/04/2023	The statewide catalog of waters important for anadromous fish will be consulted prior to crossing any water body with vehicles or heavy equipment, and separate permit authority will be obtained from ADF&G Area Managers before crossing anadromous water bodies. Notify ADF&G in regards to water withdrawal during wildland fire suppression activity.
08/04/2023	Heavy equipment use may be authorized on state lands. Use will follow the heavy equipment policy for wildland fire suppression march 2014 for the department of natural resources. Provide documentation of use to the state DNR.
08/04/2023	Avoid water withdrawal from waterbodies with known infestations of invasive species. The Chena River and Chena Lakes are known to harbor Elodea and should not be used as water sources.
08/04/2023	Ensure financial and documentation packages are prepared in accordance with agency requirements and agreements are closed out when no longer necessary.

Incident Requirement List

Activated	Incident Requirement
08/04/2023	Implement tactics in a manner that are cost effective and fiscally responsible. Manage incident costs commensurate with values at risk through the use of appropriate, effective, and where possible, local resources.
08/04/2023	Support areas such as camps, staging areas, and helibases will not be located on Native Allotments. Resources such as firewood will not be removed from a Native Allotment without an approved agreement prepared by BIA or Tanana Chiefs.
08/04/2023	Protect natural and cultural resources of Federal, State and Local interest by engaging agency resource advisors, partners and community stakeholders in effective communication and planning. Limit long term impacts from suppression actions.
08/04/2023	Protect lakes, streams and wetlands from fire suppression, retardants, foams, chemicals and petroleum products: Use containment dikes and absorbents at portable pumps, fuel storage and fuel transfer sites; properly store and dispose of all contaminated containment materials, absorbents and rags from the fire; report all spills to the land manager.

Strategic Objective List

Unit	Shape/FMU	Activated	Strategic Objective
AK Fire Mgmt Options		04/24/2019	<b>AIWFMP Full Fire Management Option</b> 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: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Protect human life.</li> <li>2. Protect qualifying sites and natural resources from damage by wildfire.</li> <li>3. Contain fires at the smallest acreage reasonably possible in order to limit short and long-term threats to values.</li> </ol>
AK Fire Mgmt Options		04/24/2019	<b>AIWFMP Critical Fire Management Option</b> 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: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Protect human life.</li> <li>2. Protect qualifying sites and natural resources from damage by wildfire.</li> <li>3. Contain fires at the smallest acreage reasonably possible in order to limit short and long-term threats to values.</li> </ol>
AK Fire Mgmt Options		04/24/2019	<b>AIWFMP Modified Fire Management Option</b> Prior to the conversion date, 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. Pre-conversion initial action priorities are to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Protect human life.</li> <li>2. Protect qualifying sites and natural resources from damage by wildfire.</li> <li>3. Contain fires in order to limit short and long-term threats to values.</li> </ol> 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: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Protect human life.</li> <li>2. Protect qualifying sites and natural resources from damage by wildfire.</li> <li>3. 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.</li> </ol>
AK Fire Mgmt Options		04/24/2019	<b>AIWFMP Limited Fire Management Option</b> 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: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Protect human life.</li> <li>2. Protect qualifying sites and natural resources from damage by wildfire.</li> <li>3. 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.</li> </ol>
AKAKA <Unit>		07/02/2015	Protect Native Allotments from fire and suppression activity impacts.

Management Requirement List

Unit	Shape/FMU	Activated	Management Requirement
AK Fire Mgmt Options		07/10/2023	<b>Alaska Interagency Wildfire Management Plan Statewide Management Requirements</b>

Unit	Shape/ FMU	Activated	Management Requirement
AK Fire Mgmt Options	07/10/2023		<p style="text-align: center;"><b>AIWFMP Statewide Management Requirements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Support areas on private lands or Native Allotments require a land use agreement. No resources (e.g., firewood, etc.) 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.</li> <li>• The use of tracked or off-road vehicles requires approval by the Jurisdictional Agency(ies) prior to use.</li> <li>• 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&amp;G statewide <i>Fish Habitat Permit FH20-SW-0001 Amendment 3</i>.</li> <li>• If a game animal is killed in defense of life or property (DLP) on an incident, an Alaska Department of Fish &amp; Game (ADF&amp;G) DLP report will be filed, and the Jurisdictional Agency(ies) will be notified.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Alaska Interagency Wildfire Management Plan Statewide Management Requirements</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>AIWFMP Statewide Management Requirements (continued)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Suppression activities including flight patterns on or near cultural sites or sites designated as "Avoid" must be coordinated with the Jurisdictional Agency.</li> <li>• Jurisdictional Agencies should be consulted concerning any operational restrictions in designated wilderness areas.</li> <li>• Jurisdictional Agencies will communicate planned fuels treatment locations to incident management organizations for consideration when locating firelines.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>



Unit	Shape/ FMU	Activated	Management Requirement
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Any discovery by firefighters of potential unexploded ordnance (UXO) or other potentially hazardous materials (e.g., mining sites, etc.) will be immediately reported through proper channels. Firefighters will remain clear of the area until the threat has been evaluated and mitigated.</li> </ul>
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.
AKEID	White Mountains RMP	07/01/2017	<p>White Mountains Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (2016):</p> <p>*Goals Related to Wildland Fire Incidents-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Protection of human life is the single overriding priority. Other priorities are based on the values to be protected, human health and safety, and the costs of protection.</li> <li>-Respond to all wildfires, with an emphasis on firefighter and public safety, and ensure that costs are commensurate with the values to be protected.</li> <li>-Use wildland fire, and other treatments to maintain or restore ecological systems and to meet land use and resource management objectives.</li> <li>-Prevent human caused wildfires.</li> <li>-Reduce risk and costs of wildfire by managing wild fires to meet resource objectives and implementation of fuels management projects.</li> <li>-Reduce adverse effects of wildland fire management activities.</li> <li>-Identify, preserve and protect significant cultural resources by a variety of means; including site avoidance or conservation, site stabilization, monitoring, public awareness programs, and/or data recovery to ensure that these resources are available for appropriate uses by present and future generations</li> </ul>
AKEID	White Mountains RMP	07/01/2017	<p>White Mountains Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (2016):</p> <p>*Decisions Relating to Wildland Fire Incidents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Implement interagency wildland fire smoke effects mitigation measures adopted by the Alaska Wildland Fire Coordinating Group. Consider smoke effects on human health, communities, recreation, and tourism in all wildland and prescribed fire management activities.</li> <li>-Manage wildland fire to achieve natural fire regimes and ecosystem processes dependent upon fire. Use prescribed fire in select areas to improve wildlife habitat.</li> <li>-In response to shifting fire regimes resulting from climate change, fire management may be implemented to achieve wildlife habitat objectives (e.g., meeting habitat needs for subsistence species) or to facilitate ecosystem adaptation to climate change (e.g., addressing spread of invasive plants).</li> <li>-All firelines will be rehabilitated and closed to OHV use to facilitate revegetation. Rehabilitate firelines by spreading original soil and vegetation on the disturbed ground, except in specific circumstances where seeding or planting may be necessary. Protect vegetation from damage caused by summer OHV use. In specific circumstances where firelines are routed and constructed so that they meet pre-determined travel management needs and maintain resource values, the AO may determine that an exception is appropriate and retain suitable firelines as OHV or snowmobile routes. Fire lines built on existing roads or OHV trails will be returned to conditions suitable for original use.</li> <li>-Manage lichen-rich plant communities as high value habitats due to the slow growth potential of lichen and its great importance to caribou.</li> <li>-Minimize impacts to known nesting sites of priority raptors from actions authorized by the BLM. Priority raptor species are peregrine falcon, gyrfalcon, bald eagle and golden eagle. Specific SOPs applicable to priority raptor habitats are listed in Appendix A Standard Operating Procedures and Fluid Mineral Leasing Stipulations. All priority raptor SOPs may be modified based on project-specific analyses. Nest sites of other raptors would be similarly managed,</li> </ul>

Unit	Shape/ FMU	Activated	Management Requirement
AKEID	White Mountains RMP	07/18/2017	<p>although management would generally be less restrictive and would be determined in site-specific environmental analyses.</p> <p>White Mountains Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (2016):                      *Standard Operating Procedures-  <i>These Standard Operating Procedures are implementation level actions. They may be modified through site-specific analysis of subsequent authorizations, but still must meet the goals and objectives of the Approved RMP. Standard Operating Procedures will continue to evolve as better resource information is gained and/or changes in technology become available. Modifications to Standard Operating Procedures may be appropriate if other measures are taken to protect resources that would result in the same or reduced impact.</i> The following SOPs relate to Wildland Fire Incidents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Where practicable and feasible, avoid disturbance of the vegetative mat and permafrost soil areas.</li> <li>-Fire management actions, including prescribed fire operations, wildland fire suppression and fire rehabilitation efforts, will protect burned and adjacent areas from the introduction and spread of non-native invasive plants. Protection may include the use of washing stations with a containment system.</li> <li>-The BLM will not be held responsible for protection of permittees' structures or their personal property from wildland fire. It is the responsibility of permittees and lessees to mitigate and minimize risk to their personal property and structures from wildland fire, following the conditions in their permit.</li> <li>-Gas-powered equipment must be equipped with manufacturer approved and functional spark arrestors.</li> <li>-To avoid the potential impacts to aquatic life, the application of fire chemicals including retardant will be avoided within 300 feet of waterbodies. Deviations are acceptable when life or property is threatened and fire chemicals reasonably expected to alleviate the threat. The AO may approve a deviation if potential damage to natural resources outweighs the impact to aquatic resources.</li> <li>-To the extent practicable, select the location for incident bases, camps, helibases, and so on to avoid riparian areas.</li> <li>-Authorized human activity within 500 meters of priority raptor nest sites will be minimized during the nesting season. The cumulative number of authorized visits (defined as each day in which work is done within 500 meters of a nest site) to any nest site per nesting season, by all authorized users, must be limited to three visits per nest site.</li> </ul>

## 1.8. Course of Action

### Course of Action

Active	Inactive	Action Item
08/04/2023		<p>Utilize appropriate fire strategies to minimize fire impacts on residences, commercial properties, and critical community infrastructure to reduce the potential for adverse health, social, financial, and economic hardships. These include: If additional values are identified, they should be passed along to the DOF Fire Management Officer for protection prioritization.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Haystack subdivision</li><li>• Himilaya subdivision</li><li>• Native allotments</li><li>• Poker Flats Research Area</li><li>• White Mountains Recreation Area cabins</li><li>• Historic Chatanika Lodge- 8 miles east.</li><li>• Whitefish Campsite (a.k.a Lower Chatanika Rec Area)</li><li>• Olnes subdivision and Olnes recreation area</li><li>• Additional permited structures within the planning area</li></ul>
08/04/2023		<p>Protect Native allotments within the planning area from fire impacts and suppression impacts. Coordinate with the BIA Fire Management Officer for specific allotment questions and concerns.</p>
08/04/2023		<p>Coordinate evacuation planning for all residential areas within the Fairbanks North Star Borough with the FNSB Emergency Operations Manager.</p>
08/04/2023		<p>Coordinate Steese-White Mountains trail and cabin closures and evacuations with the BLM / Eastern Interior Field Office Manager or representative. Cost of protecting Steese/White Mountain cabins should not exceed replacement cost (~\$100,000). Coordinate with the Field Office on particular structures.</p>
08/04/2023		<p>Coordinate with Golden Valley Electric Association to facilitate deactivation, repair and reactivation of powerlines.</p>

## 1.9. Cost

Estimated Final Cost

NAME	VALUE
Estimated Final Cost	\$4,500,000
Method(s) Used	Historic Costs

## 1.10. Rationale

### Rational

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While currently burning on State of Alaska DNR lands, there are threats to private land and residences, public infrastructure, BIA managed Native Allotments, BLM lands and recreation sites and structures. Agency administrators have decided that assigning a Type 2 IMT to manage the incident is the best course of action. There is a high relative risk due to the unusually warm and dry weather and proximity of fire to values. If the fire continues threatens to burn outside the current planning area, cost threshold will be exceeded, or there is a significant change in strategy, this decision should be evaluated for revision.