



Nabesna Slough Incident Decision

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06/23/21 19:17

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1. Decision

1.1. Decision Summary

Decision Information

NAME	VALUE
Published	06/23/2021 19:17 CDT
Estimated Cost	\$10,000,000
Incident Owner(s)	Peter Butteri, Jennifer Hrobak, Christopher Moore, Michael Butteri, Lisa Saperstein, Thomas St. Clair, Casey Boespflug, Brian Sorbel, Jennifer Barnes
Editor(s)	Dale Woitas, Brian Haugen, Kato Howard, lesley dewilde, Richard Ray, Shawn Bayless
Reviewer(s)	
Approver(s)	Shawn Bayless, Leslie DeWilde, Justin Ray, Kato Howard
Natl Preparedness Level	2

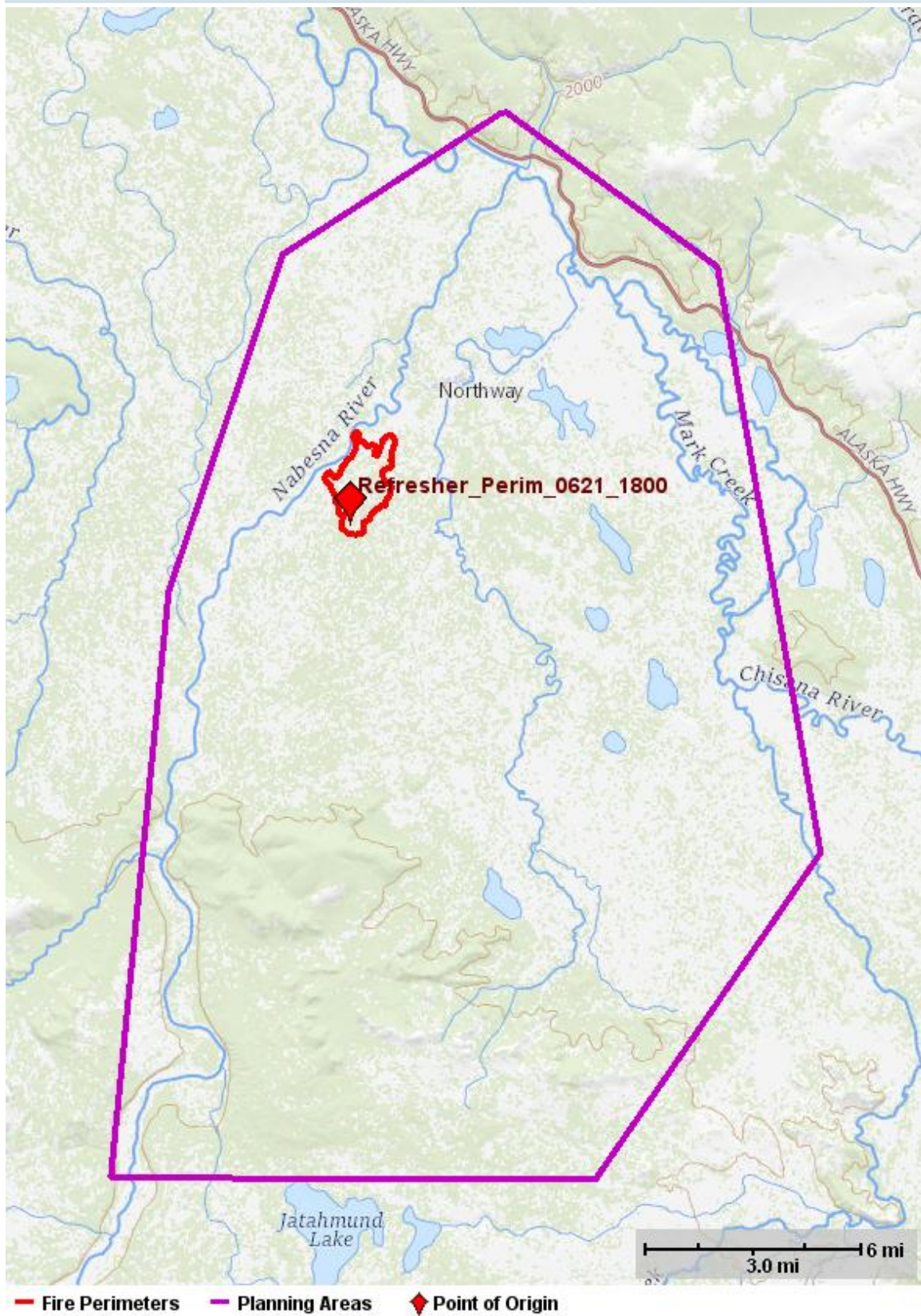
Decision History

Editor Name	Action	Date (CDT)	Comment
Butteri, Peter	Approved	06/23/2021 19:17	
Butteri, Peter	Published	06/23/2021 19:17	
Butteri, Peter	Review Requested	06/23/2021 19:16	
Butteri, Peter	Review Requested	06/23/2021 19:16	Review 2
Butteri, Peter	Created	06/23/2021 18:39	

1.2. Incident Information

Incident Information

NAME	VALUE
Incident Name	Nabesna Slough
Unique Fire Identifier	2021-AKTAS-002022
Responsible Unit Name	Tok Area
FireCode	CASH
P-Code	PNCASH
Point of Origin	62.90498N / 142.01016 W
Incident Size	2,580acres
Latest WFDSS Perimeter Size	1,892acres
Incident Cause	Natural
Incident Type	Wildfire
Incident Discovery	06/19/2021 17:00
Contained	
Controlled	
Out	
Jurisdictional Unit	AKTER - Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge
Jurisdictional Agency(s)	BIA/Tribal, USFWS, Other, ANCSA, State
Geographic Area (prep level)	Alaska (1)
Owner Name(s)	Peter Butteri, Jennifer Hrobak, Christopher Moore, Michael Butteri, Lisa Saperstein, Thomas St. Clair, Casey Boespflug, Brian Sorbel, Jennifer Barnes



1.3. Weather

FNAK52 PAFG 201356
FWFWCZ

Fire Weather Planning Forecast for Interior Alaska
National Weather Service Fairbanks AK
556 AM AKDT Mon Jun 21 2021

.DISCUSSION...There is a Red Flag Warning in effect for hot, dry and windy conditions through Wednesday. Low pressure across the Interior, combined with strong high pressure over the Gulf of Alaska will bring warm, dry and windy conditions to the southern Interior till at least Wednesday. Minimum RH values will fall into the mid 20s to low 30s today across the eastern Interior and into the lower 20s on Tuesday and Wednesday. Temperatures will climb into the mid 70s today and into the middle and upper 70s on Tuesday and Wednesday. With the tightening pressure gradient, expect strong southerly winds to be on the rise over the next few days. Conditions will moderate somewhat during the overnight hours, but humidity recovery will be poor.

AKZ224-200556-
Upper Tanana Valley and Fortymile Country
Including the towns of Tok and Northway
556 AM AKDT Mon Jun 21 2021

	Today	Tonight	Mon
Cloud cover	PCldy	MClear	MClear
Precip type	None	None	None
Chance precip (%)	0	0	0
Temp (24h trend)	66-75 (0)	50-60 (-1)	68-77
RH % (24h trend)	24-35 (-8)	50-60 (-6)	20-30 (-3)
20ftWnd(mph)	S 10-15 G22	S 12-18 G25	SSW 14-20 G28
CWR	0	0	0
LAL	1	1	1

Remarks...None.

.FORECAST FOR DAYS 3 THROUGH 5...

.WEDNESDAY...Sunny. Isolated showers. Lows 50 to 62.
Highs 68 to 78. Southwest winds around 15 mph, gusts to 30 mph.
.THURSDAY...Partly cloudy. Lows 50 to 60.
Highs 65 to 75. Southwest winds around 15 mph.
.FRIDAY...Mostly cloudy. Lows 45 to 55.
Highs 66 to 77. South winds around 15 mph.

WWAK61 PAFK 201420
RFAER

URGENT - FIRE WEATHER MESSAGE
National Weather Service Fairbanks AK
620 AM AKDT Mon Jun 21 2021

AKZ224-200600-
Upper Tanana Valley and Fortymile Country
Including the towns of Tok and Northway
620 AM AKDT Sun Jun 20 2021

...RED FLAG WARNING NOW IN EFFECT UNTIL 8 PM AKDT WEDNESDAY FOR HOT
DRY AND WINDY CONDITIONS FOR THE UPPER TANANA VALLEY...

- * Winds...South to southeast 12 to 20 mph with gusts to 28 mph.
- * Relative Humidity...As low as 20 percent.
- * Temperatures...In the mid to upper 70s.
- * Timing...Red flag conditions will abate by 11 PM this evening
then develop again Tuesday with the same trend on Wednesday
during the afternoon through early evening hours.
Humidities will show poor overnight recoveries, not exceeding
60 percent.
- * Impacts...Rapid ignition, growth and spread of fires will be
possible.

PRECAUTIONARY/PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS...

A red flag warning means that critical fire weather conditions
are imminent or occurring now, or will shortly. It is directed
toward fire agencies, and through them to the public.

1.4. Modeling

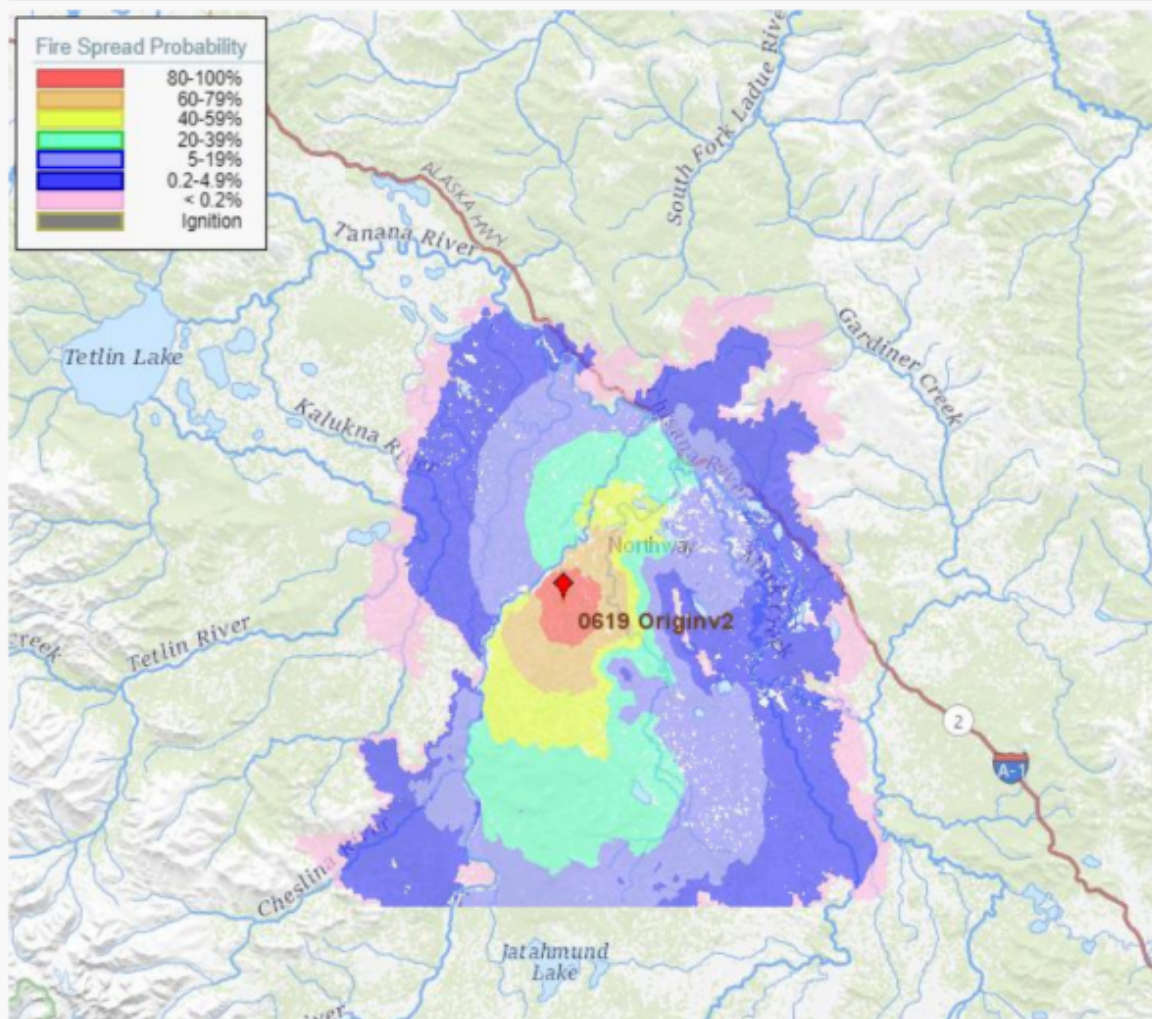
FSPro

FSPro General Information

NAME	VALUE
Analysis Name	0619 Fcst 14d 1000f
Analyst Name	Moore, Christopher
Completed	03/31/2022 12:17
Analysis Status	Complete
Analysis Start	06/19/2019
Duration	14 days
Simulations	1000 fires
Crown Fire Method	Finney (1998)
Ignition	0619 Originv2
Barrier	No barrier specified
ERC Station	500704 - NORTHWAY_(ORT) (4.7 miles)
Winds Station	500726 - ALCAN HWY MI 1244 (19.6 miles)
Landscape Resolution	90 meters

FSPro Analysis '0619 Fcst 14d 1000f'

Time (CDT)	User	Note
03/31/2022 12:17	Moore, Christopher	A 14-day run (6.19-7.2) Recent fire scars, 2015 Long Lake, 2018 Taixtsalda Hill, and 2019 Boundary River will slow fire spread but there is still a path of unburned fuel between the fire and Northway.. The Nabesna River should be a robust barrier under most conditions.

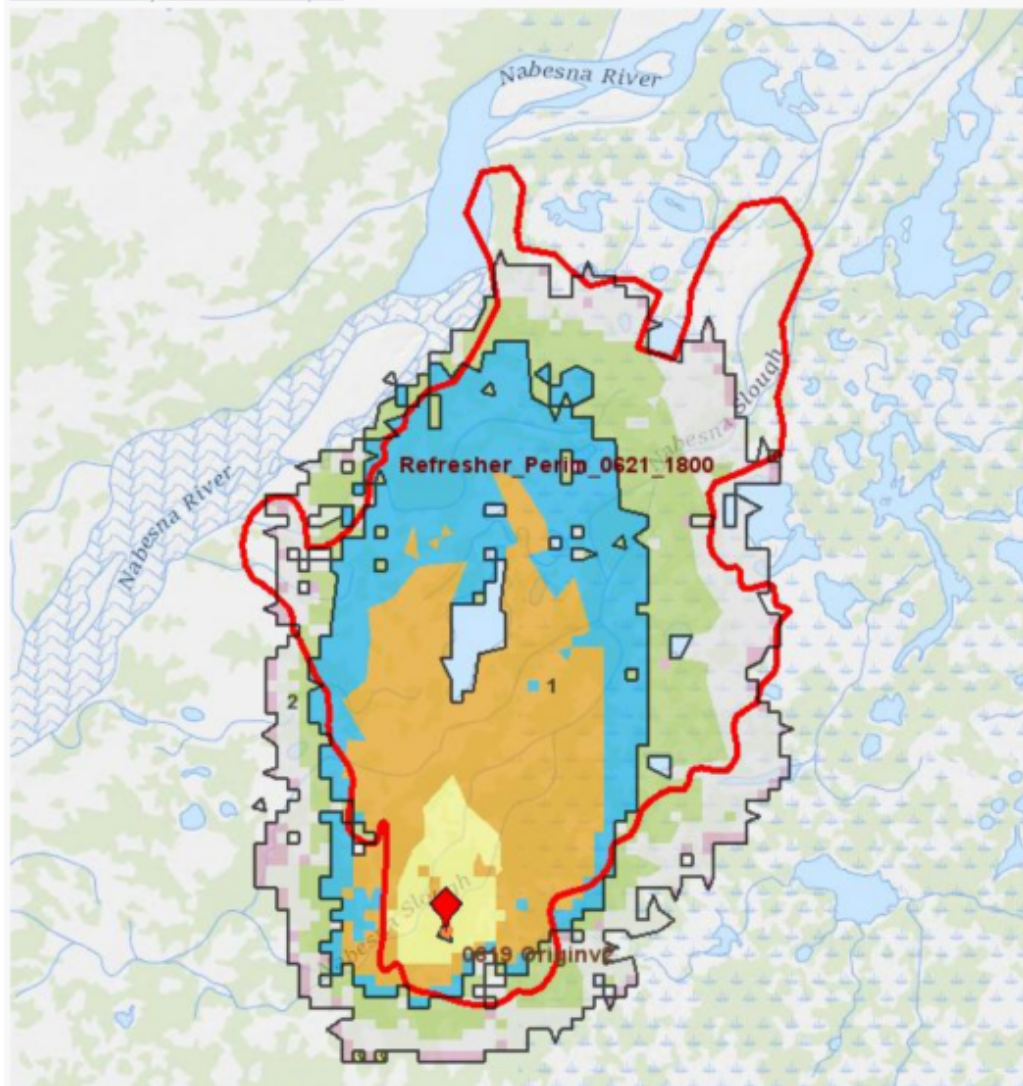


NTFB Analysis

Near Term Fire Behavior Analysis Information

NAME	VALUE
Analysis Name	0619 3d 10bpv4
Analyst Name	Butteri, Peter
Ignition	0619 Originv2
Barrier	No barrier specified
Analysis Start Date/Hour	06/19/2021 12
Analysis End Date/Hour	06/21/2021 20
Conditioning Days	1
Foliar Moisture Content	100%
Crown Fire Method	Finney (1998)
Spotting Probability	0.1
Spot Ignition Delay	0 min
Minimum Spotting Distance	60 meters
Landscape Resolution	60 meters
Perimeter Resolution	60 meters
Spot Grid Resolution	30.0 meters
Status	Complete
Total Acres	2,242

Near Term Analysis '0619 3d 10bpv4'



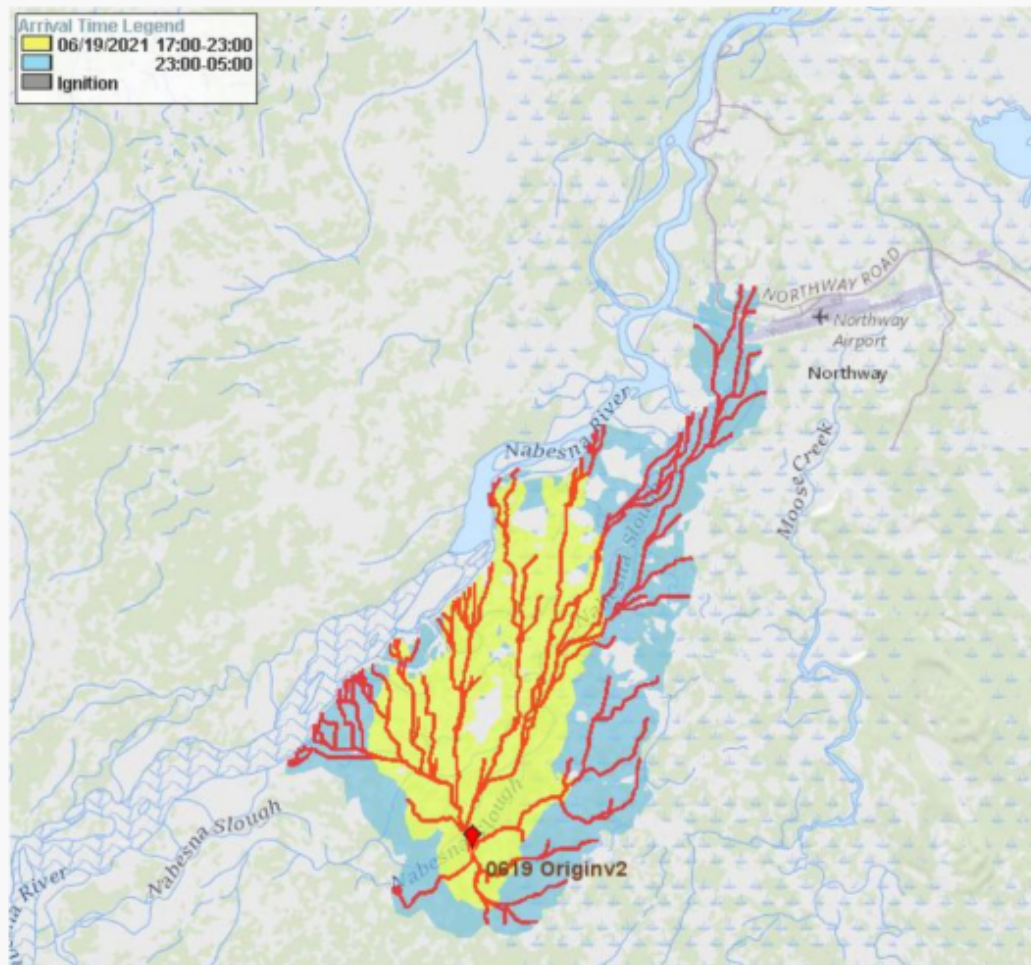
[STFB](#)

Short Term Fire Behavior Analysis Information

NAME	VALUE
Analysis Name	0619 1d 12bp Chinook v2
Analyst Name	Moore, Christopher
Ignition	0619 Originv2
Barrier	No barrier specified
Burn Period	12 hours
Number of Burn Periods	1
Analysis Date/Time	06/19/2021 17:00 CDT
Conditioning Days	0
Foliar Moisture Content	100%
Crown Fire Method	Finney (1998)
Spotting Probability	0.20
Direction from Max	0
Wind Type	Generate Gridded Wind
Wind Speed	20 mph
Wind Direction	190° azimuth
Landscape Resolution	30 meters
Gridded Wind Resolution	30 meters
Status	Complete
Automated	No
Total Acres	4,080

Short Term Analysis '0619 1d 12bp Chinook v2'

Time (CDT)	User	Note
03/31/2022 12:08	Moore, Christopher	A chinook wind scenario showing potential fire spread towards Northway.



1.5. Risk

Relative Risk

NAME	VALUE
Relative Risk	High
Duration	High
Saved By	Butteri, Peter
Completed	06/23/2021 19:12 CDT

Relative Risk Notes

Natural barriers should limit spread to the east and west but long term spread to the south is likely and short term spread to the north towards values around Northway and in the Alaska Highway corridor is a major concern. Smoke impacts to Northway, Northway Airport, and the Alaska Highway are likely given predicted winds and mitigations will be needed. Impacts to local subsistence activities are important considerations. The fire will remain active until it receives significant rain and there will be long-term potential for spread later in the season from any uncontained edge.

Values Notes

As always, human life is the highest priority value to be protected. Approximately 100 people live in the community of Northway Village and the surrounding area. In addition, Northway Airport two miles north of the fire is the primary port of entry for small aircraft entering Alaska through the Yukon Territory. It averages over 40 takeoffs/landings per day. There are 12 Alaska Native Allotments within five miles of the fire's edge. Important cultural sites are scattered throughout the area. Some are sensitive to fire, others are more likely to be impacted by suppression efforts. An important local subsistence fishery at Fish Lake peaks in June and early July. The Alaska Highway, fifteen miles to the northeast provides the only road access to most of Alaska from the contiguous 48 states and Canada. It is an important conduit for tourism and commerce.

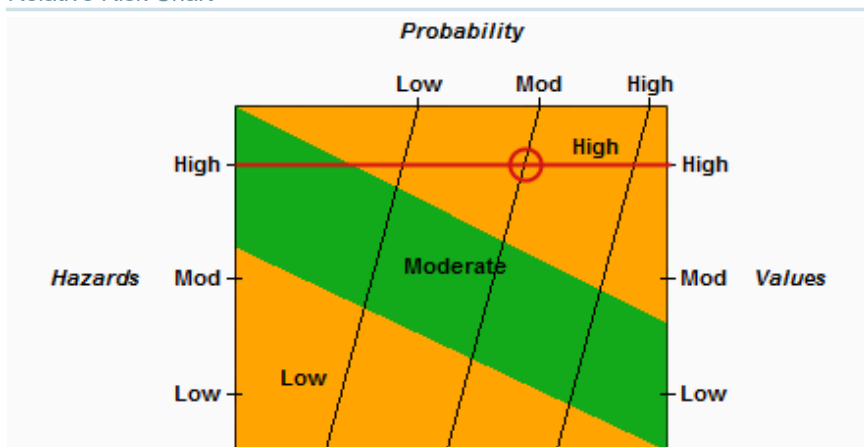
Hazards Notes

Fire is burning actively in tundra, black spruce woodland, and stringers of mature spruce along waterways. Moderate rates of spread have been observed in all fuel types. The FFMC at Northway is in the Very-high range and is expected to move in to the Extreme range over the next few days as fuels continue to dry and Chinook winds materialize over the area. The BUI is Very-high and steadily rising leading to an increased resistance to control. Continuous fuels to the north and south are conducive to large fire growth with predicted south winds increasing the probability that the fire will continue to spread towards Northway and the Alaska Highway.

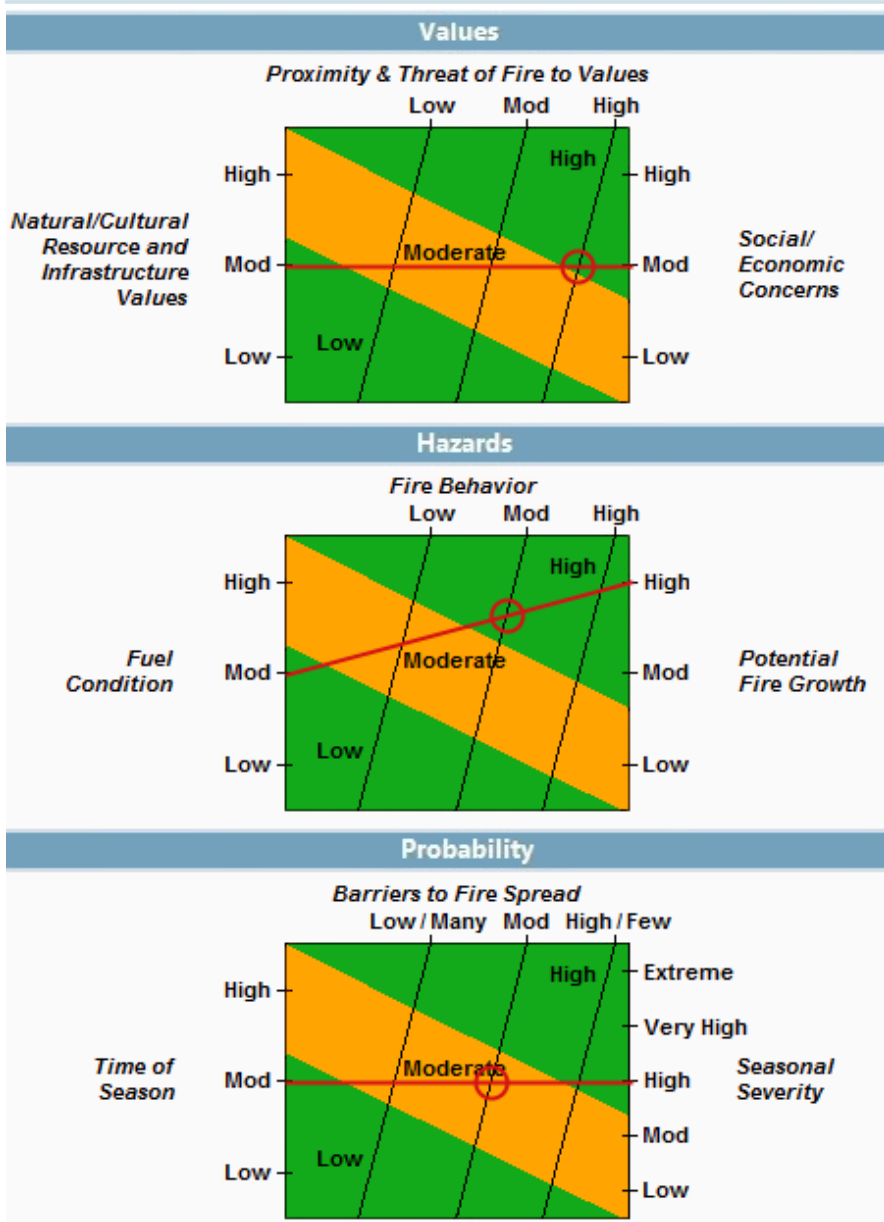
Probability Notes

The Interior Alaska fire season is approaching its peak. The BUI and DMC are approaching historic maximums for this time of the season indicating that duff layers will be available to burn until significant precipitation is received. The Nabesna River provides a reasonably strong barrier to western spread and the 2015 Long Lake fire can be reasonably expected to slow growth to the east. There are few barriers to the south. Barriers to the north include the Northway airport runway, several fuels treatments around Northway Village and the Northway School, Northway Road, Chisana and Nabesna Rivers, and the Alaska Highway.

Relative Risk Chart



Relative Risk Inputs



Organization Assessment

NAME	VALUE
Unit Recommended Org	Type 2
Saved By	Butteri, Peter
Completed	06/23/2021 19:13 CDT

Organization Assessment Notes

Incident complexity indicates the need for a strong Type 3 organization or a Type 2 IMT. Because of the proximity to Northway, the need for coordination with multiple cooperators, and the potential for a long duration incident we recommend a Type 2 IMT with Alaska experience be ordered to manage this incident.

Relative Risk Notes

Natural barriers should limit spread to the east and west but long term spread to the south is likely and short term spread to the north towards values around Northway and in the Alaska Highway corridor is a major concern. Smoke impacts to Northway, Northway Airport, and the Alaska Highway are likely given predicted winds and mitigations will be needed. Impacts to local subsistence activities are important considerations. The fire will remain active until it receives significant rain and there will be long-term potential for spread later in the season from any uncontained edge.

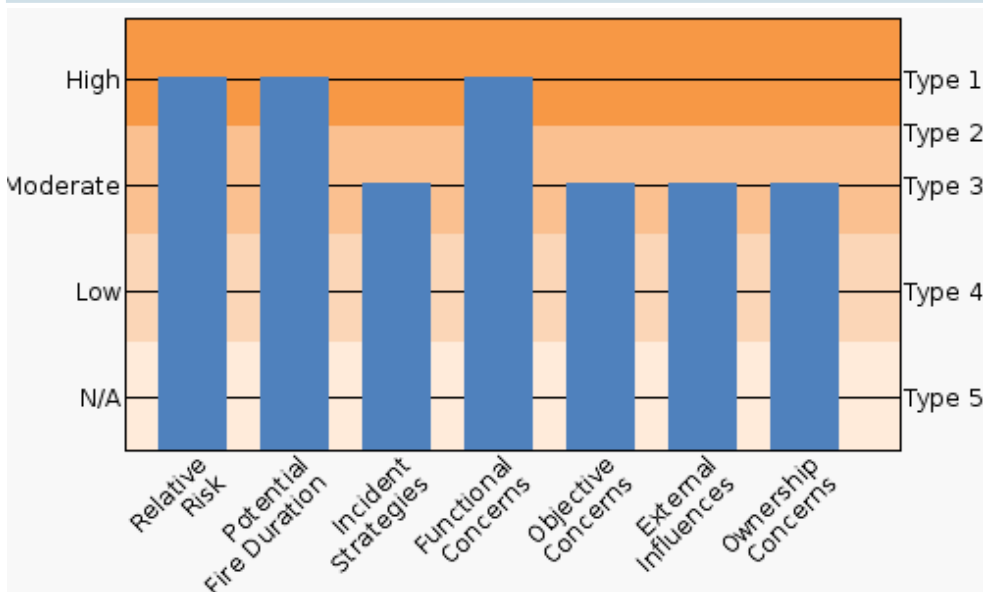
Implementation Difficulty Notes

There is a high probability that this will be a long-duration fire with potential effects to Northway and the Alaska Highway corridor through the remainder of the fire season. The primary strategy is to limit spread to the north to protect the concentration of values around Northway. There is a strong probability that the eastern and western edges of the fire can be confined between the 2015 Long Lake Fire and the Nabesna River. Spread to the south is likely over the long-term but the few values at risk there can be defended with point protection actions. Alaska is at PL 3 but even though this fire is currently a high priority it may be challenging to obtain the resources needed to successfully meet objectives.

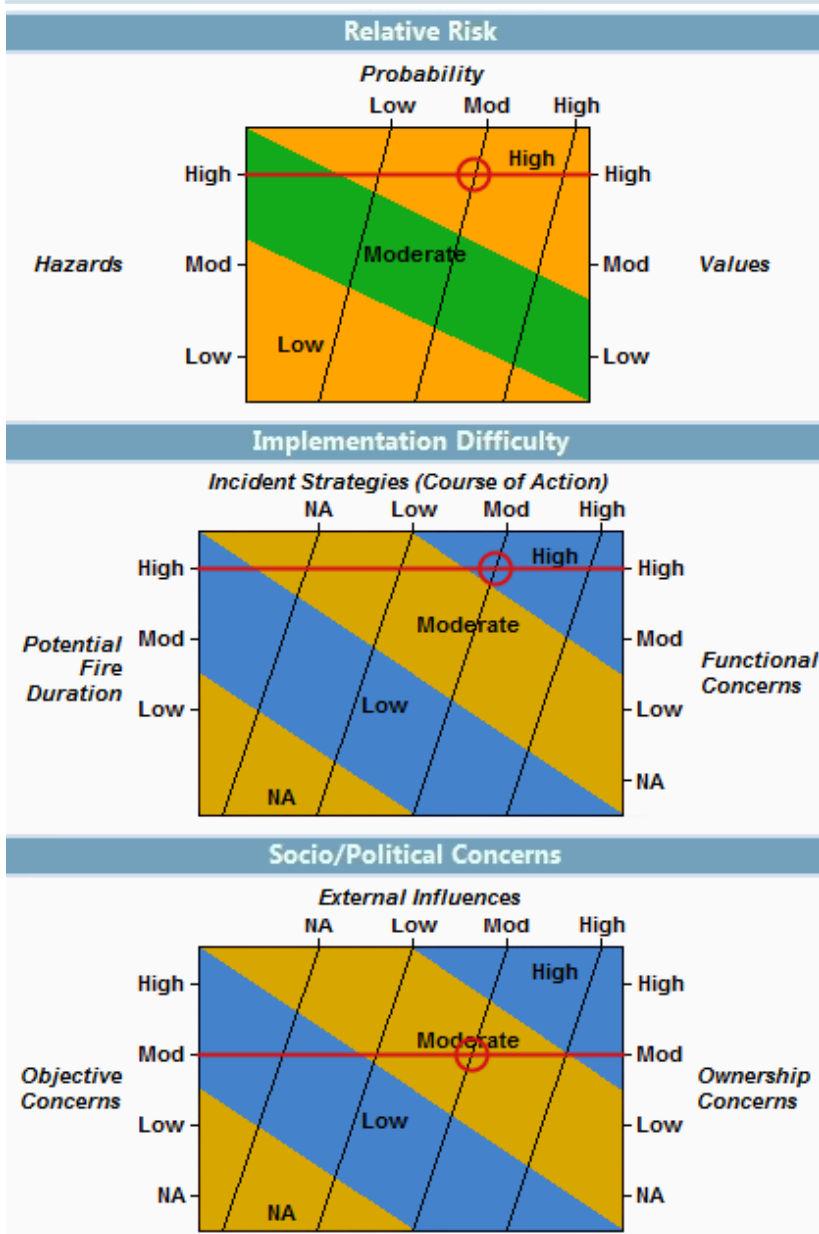
Socio/Political Concerns Notes

Multiple jurisdictions are threatened by this fire and coordination with several cooperating organizations will be required. The threat to the community of Northway may necessitate evacuations and there could be longer-term smoke impacts to the community, the airport, and to traffic on the Alaska Highway. Protection objectives are straightforward however it may be challenging to protect some of the Native Allotments and cultural sites within the Planning Area.

Organization Assessment Chart



Unit Recommended Org: Type 2



Planning Area Values Inventory Generated at 04/27/2022 15:09

NAME	VALUE
Planning Area Name	06/23/2021 16:42
Incident Name	Nabesna Slough
Planning Area Size	278,014 acres

Category	Value	Data Source	Currency	Coverage
Building Clusters: Southeast Fairbanks, AK	no data	Various	Various	Available counties
Communication Towers	6	HIFLD	02/20/2020	National
County: Southeast Fairbanks, AK	278,014 acres	US Census Bureau - TIGER	01/20/2022	National
Electric Power Plants	1	Homeland Security Open Data	07/09/2020	CONUS, AK, HI, Puerto Rico, Guam, N. Marian Islands, and US Virgin Islands
Estimated Population	33	LandScan USA	2018	CONUS, AK, HI, PR
Landowner Category: ANCSA	107,581 acres	PAD-US 2.0, AICC, BIA/ WFDSS, Census	10/09/2020	National

Category	Value	Data Source	Currency	Coverage
Landowner Category: BIA	5,595 acres	PAD-US 2.0, AICC, BIA/ WFDSS, Census	10/09/2020	National
Landowner Category: BLM	3 acres	PAD-US 2.0, AICC, BIA/ WFDSS, Census	10/09/2020	National
Landowner Category: Private	100 acres	PAD-US 2.0, AICC, BIA/ WFDSS, Census	10/09/2020	National
Landowner Category: State	19,584 acres	PAD-US 2.0, AICC, BIA/ WFDSS, Census	10/09/2020	National
Landowner Category: USFWS	144,379 acres	PAD-US 2.0, AICC, BIA/ WFDSS, Census	10/09/2020	National
Responsible Agency: State	278,014 acres	Various	03/15/2022	AK, CA, ID, MT, NM, MN
Roads	10.5 miles	NAVTEQ	11/2012	National
USFWS Trails	0.1 miles	USFWS Download	09/09/2019	CONUS, AK, HI, PR

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), Natl Wild Scenic Rivers (National), Oil and Gas Pipelines (National), Other Areas (National), Ozone Non-Attainment (National), Particulates Non-Attainment (National), Protecting Unit (AK, CA, ID, MT, NM, MN), Sage Grouse Habitat (National), TNC Lands (National), USFS Buildings (National), USFS Trails (CONUS, AK, PR), WSA (National), Wilderness (National)

1.6. Benefits

Benefits

Last updated by Peter Butteri on 06/23/2021 11:47



Comments

The fire is burning in an area characterized by fire-adapted systems with no recorded fire history over the past 70 years. Ecosystem benefits can be expected in burned areas, especially in the uplands to the south. The burned area will also reduce fuels and provide a valuable long-term barrier to future fire progression from Refuge lands in the south to lands surrounding the community of Northway.

1.7. Objectives

Incident FMU/Strategic Objective Code List

Unit	FMU/Strat Obj Code	Acres
AKAKA	AKAKA - Native Allotments	5,596
AKDNS	AKDNS	19,673
AKDTS	AKDTS	1.4
AKDYN	AKDYN - Doyon, Limited	43,569
AKEID	AKEID - Eastern Interior Field Office	2.9
AKTER	AKTER - Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge	144,350
AKVLN	AKVLN - ANCSA Village Corporation	64,067

Spatial Fire Planning Inventory

Category	Value	Data Source	Currency	Coverage
AK Fire Mgmt Options: Critical	24,476 acres	Alaska Interagency Fire Center	06/04/2021	Alaska Only
AK Fire Mgmt Options: Full	118,056 acres	Alaska Interagency Fire Center	06/04/2021	Alaska Only
AK Fire Mgmt Options: Limited	94,018 acres	Alaska Interagency Fire Center	06/04/2021	Alaska Only
AK Fire Mgmt Options: Modified	41,455 acres	Alaska Interagency Fire Center	06/04/2021	Alaska Only
Mgmt Req: Test NA AKF093495	157 acres	AKAKA	Current	Unit Level

Incident Objective List

Activated	Incident Objective
04/29/2022	Firefighter and public safety are the highest priority values to be protected.
04/29/2022	Protect the community of Northway Village.
04/29/2022	Protect facilities and infrastructure at Northway Airport and in the Northway Road and Alaska Highway corridors.
04/29/2022	Protect Alaska Native Allotments and cultural sites in the vicinity of Northway from fire and suppression activity impacts.
04/29/2022	Fire spread to the south on Refuge lands is acceptable where no values are threatened or where the threat has been mitigated.
04/29/2022	Maintain and enhance relationships between the cooperating agencies, Northway Village Council, Northway Natives, Inc., Doyon, and the public. Provide timely and accurate information regarding fire status and minimize disruptions to subsistence activities.

Incident Requirement List

Activated	Incident Requirement
04/29/2022	The use of aerially delivered suppression chemicals (retardant) is authorized on State and ANCSA lands. The Tetlin Refuge Manager has authorized the use of retardant on Refuge lands where it will limit spread toward Alaska Native Allotments and the community of Northway. Retardant may not be applied within 300 feet of waterways and its use must comply with Red Book standards.
04/29/2022	The use of heavy equipment on State and ANCSA lands is authorized subject to the 2014 DNR Heavy Equipment Policy. Use on Refuge lands requires written authorization from the Refuge Manager. All use of heavy equipment will be coordinated through assigned Resource Advisors.
04/29/2022	Coordinate the protection of cultural sites with the Northway Village Council and the FWS Cultural Resources Specialist. Cultural site data is sensitive and should only be shared to the extent needed to protect these important resources.
04/29/2022	The Alaska Highway is a critical transportation corridor. Coordinate with the Department of Transportation to facilitate safe and efficient traffic flow along the Alaska Highway and Northway Road.
04/29/2022	Coordinate evacuation planning, outreach, and implementation with the Northway Village Council, the State EOC, and State Troopers.
04/29/2022	Coordinate air traffic concerns with FAA and the U.S. Customs Port of Entry.
04/29/2022	Accurately track incident costs and ensure cost containment measures are identified, applied, and documented.

Strategic Objective List

Unit	Shape/FMU	Activated	Strategic Objective
AKAKA	<Unit>	03/03/2016	Protect Native Allotments from fire and suppression activity impacts.
AKAKA	AKAKA	03/03/2016	Ensure BIA and/or compact provider is kept informed regarding strategy, risks, and progress on incidents involving Native Allotments.
AKTER	<Unit>	04/10/2015	Protect the communities of Northway, Northway Junction, Port Alcan, and Beaver Creek from the impacts of wildland fire.
AKTER	<Unit>	04/10/2015	Protect residences, businesses, and infrastructure in the Alaska Highway corridor from the impacts of wildland fire.
AKTER	<Unit>	04/10/2015	Protect Native Allotments from the impacts of wildland fire.
AKTER	<Unit>	04/10/2015	Provide protection for identified Known Sites within and around the Refuge from the impacts of wildland fire.
AKTER	<Unit>	04/10/2015	Minimize the spread of fire onto neighboring Native Corporation jurisdictions.
AKTER	<Unit>	04/10/2015	Allow fire to spread naturally in order to provide long-term habitat and fuels management benefits when and where it does not compromise safety or other objectives.

Management Requirement List

Unit	Shape/FMU	Activated	Management Requirement
AKAKA	<Unit>	03/03/2016	Provide BIA and/or compact provider with documentation of impacts to Native Allotments caused by fire or fire suppression actions.
AKAKA	<Unit>	04/28/2022	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.
AKAKA	Test NA AKF093495	03/03/2016	Test Special Direction specific to Allotment #AKF093495
AKTER	<Unit>	04/10/2015	Minimize the disruptions to local economies and seek opportunities to offset disruption to businesses in all local communities adjacent to the fire area.
AKTER	<Unit>	04/10/2015	The use of Heavy Equipment on Refuge lands requires written pre-authorization (incident-specific or programmatic) by the Refuge Manager or delegate.
AKTER	<Unit>	04/10/2015	The use of Fire Suppression Chemicals (Retardant) on Refuge lands requires written pre-authorization (incident-specific or programmatic) by the Refuge Manager or delegate.
AKTER	<Unit>	04/10/2015	Consider the potential impacts of smoke to communities and the Alaska Highway corridor in all fire management decisions and implement appropriate mitigations.
AKTER	<Unit>	04/10/2015	Avoid ground disturbance in the vicinity of identified cultural sites.
AKTER	<Unit>	04/10/2015	Avoid disturbance of identified raptor nesting sites.
AKTER	<Unit>	04/10/2015	Consider point protection of remote values, indirect strategies, and the use of natural barriers as alternatives to direct containment efforts in order to minimize firefighter exposure.
AKTER	<Unit>	04/10/2015	Maintain effective two-way communications with partners and the public regarding fire management activities.
AKTER	<Unit>	03/03/2016	Unit Land Management Plan: Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge Revised Comprehensive Conservation Plan - September 2008

Management Requirement List

Unit	Shape/FMU	Activated	Management Requirement
			Unit Fire Management Plan: <i>Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge Fire Management Plan - April 2012</i>

AK Mgmt Options

Unit	Shape/FMU	Activated	Strategic Objective
	AK Fire Mgmt Options	04/24/2019	"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:" <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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.
	AK Fire Mgmt Options	04/24/2019	"AIWFMP Limited Fire Management Option The default initial action is to conduct surveillance, assessment, and site protection as warranted. Initial action priorities are to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 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	<u>Yukon Delta Refuge Fire Management Plan</u> <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)

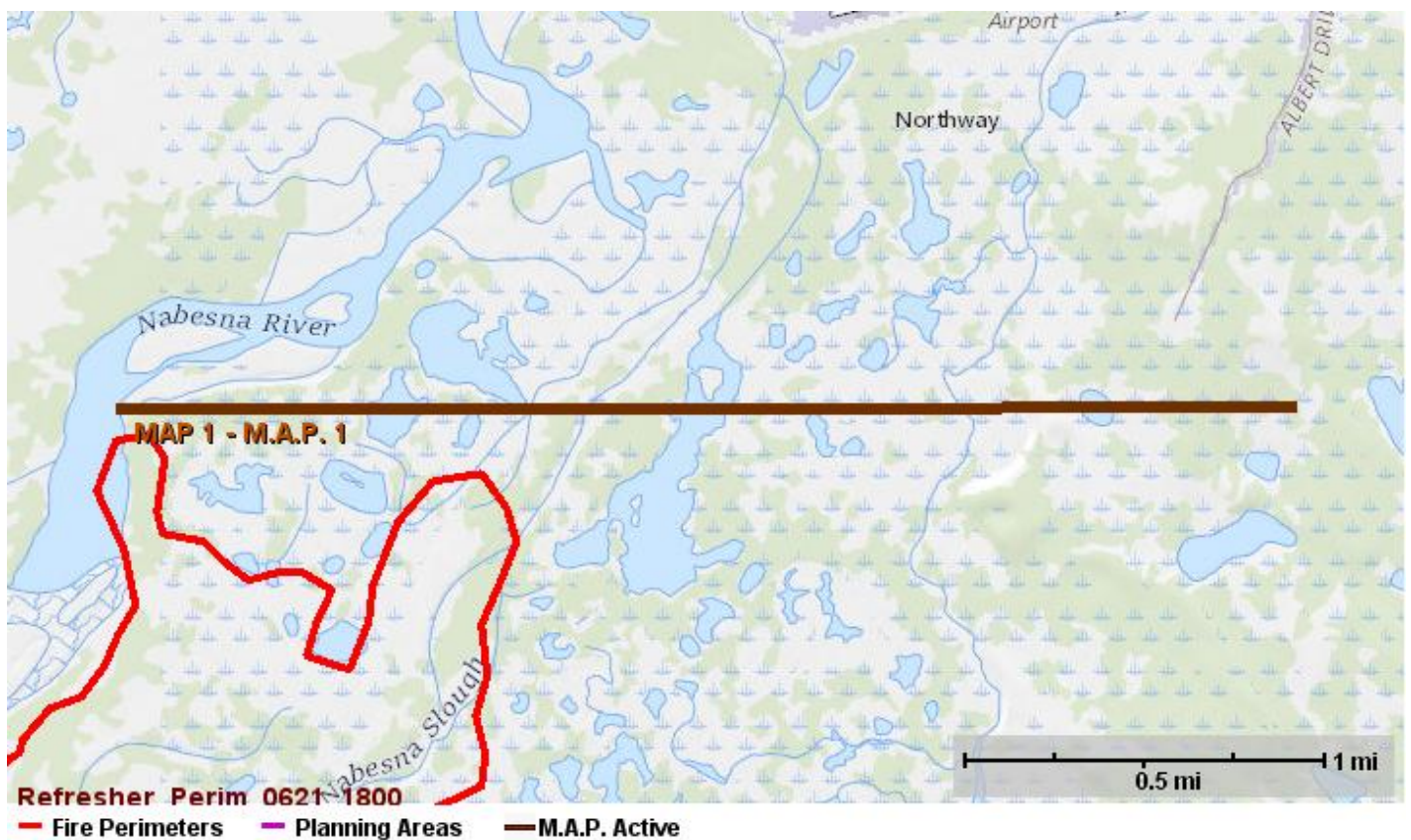
Unit	Shape/ FMU	Activated	Management Requirement
			<p style="text-align: center;">AIWFMP Statewide Management Requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weigh the cost and environmental impacts of suppression actions against the value of resources warranting protection. Consider risk to firefighters 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 Jurisdictional Agencies 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 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 dip sites unless needed to protect property or life. If used, equipment will be cleaned and sanitized before its next use. Communicate concerns, questions, and needs regarding invasive species to jurisdictional resource advisors in a timely manner.
	<p>AK Fire Mgmt Options</p>	<p>06/04/2021</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Alaska Interagency Wildfire Management Plan Statewide Management Requirements</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AIWFMP Statewide Management Requirements (continued)</p> <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. • Wildland firefighters will not take direct suppression action on structure, vehicle, dumpster, trash, or landfill fires. Structure, vehicle, and landfill fire suppression is not a functional responsibility of wildland fire resources. These fires have the potential to emit high levels of toxic gases. Wildland firefighters who encounter structure, vehicle, or landfill fires will not engage in direct suppression action. Structure protection (not suppression) activities 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.

1.8. Course of Action

Course of Action

Active	Inactive	Action Item
04/29/2022		Use a combination of direct and indirect tactics including aerial delivery of water and/or retardant to limit spread to the north and protect Northway, Northway Airport, and Native Allotments.
04/29/2022		Provide site protection for Alaska Native Allotments and cultural sites in the fire area.
04/29/2022		Monitor westward spread and aggressively suppress spots across the Nabesna River to prevent the establishment of fire on the west bank and limit the threat to additional values.
04/29/2022		Monitor the east edge of the fire and check any spread to the east of the 2015 Long Lake fire to limit the threat to additional values.
04/29/2022		Spread to the south on Refuge and Doyon lands is acceptable; however, look for opportunities to limit southerly spread in order to reduce long term smoke impacts to Northway, Northway Airport, and the Alaska Highway corridor.

Management Action Point 1



NAME	VALUE
Incident Name	Nabesna Slough
Cost	
Shape	M.A.P. 1
Activated	04/29/2022
Deactivated	
Status	Active

Condition

Fire spreads north of M.A.P. 1 (Full/Critical Management Option Boundary).

Actions

Consider elevating evacuation level for Northway Airport and Northway Village to "Go". Coordinate Northway Airport status with FAA and U.S. Customs Port of Entry.

Coordinate traffic control on the Northway Road and Alaska Highway with AK DOT.

Resources

1.9. Cost

Estimated Final Cost

NAME	VALUE
Estimated Final Cost	\$10,000,000
Method(s) Used	Spreadsheet

Comments

Costs were estimated using a DOF Area spreadsheet.

Estimate accounts for Initial Attack, 2 IMT2 weeks, 2 IMT3/weeks, 20 Crew/weeks, 10 Engine/weeks, 5 Helicopter/weeks and retardant use.

1.10. Rationale

The Nabesna Slough fire threatens numerous values in the vicinity of Northway. As always, human life is the highest priority value to be protected. Approximately 100 people live in the community of Northway Village and the surrounding area. In addition, Northway Airport two miles north of the fire is the primary port of entry for small aircraft entering Alaska through the Yukon Territory. It averages over 40 takeoffs/landings per day. There are 12 Alaska Native Allotments within five miles of the fire's edge. Important cultural sites are scattered throughout the area. Some are sensitive to fire, others are more likely to be impacted by suppression efforts. An important local subsistence fishery at Fish Lake peaks in June and early July. The Alaska Highway, fifteen miles to the northeast provides the only road access to most of Alaska from the contiguous 48 states and Canada. It is an important conduit for tourism and commerce.

Fire Danger Indices are Very High and are expected to move into the Extreme range. Modeling indicates that a predicted Chinook wind event over the next few days will push the fire north and threaten many of these values. In addition to property and infrastructure damage, evacuations, traffic restrictions, and an airport closure may result if the fire continues to spread to the north.

Natural barriers to the east and west may limit the need for active suppression of those portions of the fire and spread to the south where there are fewer values threatened is of less concern. Some spread away from Northway may provide ecosystem benefits and provide fuels reduction that may help protect Northway from future fires.

Given predicted conditions, long range spotting across the Nabesna River or eastward progression through the 2015 Long Lake fire are possible and either could require a longer engagement to protect additional values.

Currently the fire is burning on US Fish and Wildlife Service lands in the Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge. Alaska Native Allotments under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Indian Affairs are imminently threatened as are Northway Natives, Inc. lands. Additional participants in this decision include the Alaska Department of Natural Resources with jurisdiction over private lands, and Doyon, Inc. Additional jurisdictions within the Planning Area but with no direct participation in this decision include the Alaska Department of Transportation, the FAA, the US Air Force, Tetlin Village Corporation, and the BLM Eastern Interior Field Office. Other stakeholders include the Northway Village Council and the U.S. Customs Service.

Our decision is that after life safety, containment of the northern edge of the fire to protect Northway area values and the Alaska Highway corridor is the highest priority. Protecting allotments, cultural sites, cabins, and other identified sites is the next priority. Active suppression of the western edge should only be taken if the fire spots to the west of the Nabesna River or if it increases the probability of success of limiting spread to the north. Spread to the east should only be actively suppressed if it threatens allotments or other sites, has a high probability of spreading to the east of the 2015 Long Lake fire, or increases the probability of success of limiting spread to the north. Spread to the south onto Doyon and Refuge lands is acceptable where Native Allotments and other sites are not threatened. Although suppression action on the southern edge may help to reduce long-term smoke impacts to Northway and the Alaska Highway it would increase the resource requirements and the time resources would need to be committed.

This decision will be reconsidered if the fire exceeds the Planning Area, affects additional jurisdictions, or if incident costs are expected to greatly exceed \$10 million. If the fire becomes established west of the Nabesna River or east of the 2015 Long Lake fire, or is likely to reach the Alaska Highway a new decision may be considered.