

SUBJECT: ACCEPTING AND APPROPRIATING \$385,000 FROM THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE, APPROVING THE SCOPE OF WORK AND BUDGET, AUTHORIZING THE MANAGER TO ENTER INTO THE GRANT AGREEMENT FOR THE MAT-SU BEETLE KILL FIRE REDUCTION INITIATIVE, AND APPROVING THE AMENDED BUDGETS OF THE MUNICIPAL ENTITLEMENT LANDS PROJECT AND THE CENSUS PROJECT.

AGENDA OF: October 18, 2022

ASSEMBLY ACTION:

Adopted without objection 11-22-22
(BGM)

MANAGER RECOMMENDATION: Introduce and set for public hearing.

APPROVED BY MICHAEL BROWN, BOROUGH MANAGER: WB

Route To:	Department/Individual	Initials	Remarks
	Originator - P. Graham	PG	
	Community Development Director	CD	
	Finance Director	CF	
	Borough Attorney	BA	
	Borough Clerk	AM 10/10/22	(BGM)

ATTACHMENT(S) : Fiscal Note: YES X NO _____
Grant Agreement 22-DG-11100106-814 (33 pages)
Ordinance Serial No. 22-126 (2 pp)
Resolution Serial No. 22-107 (3 pp)

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

In April 2022, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough received notice of a \$385,000 federal earmark included in the United States Forest Service Fiscal Year 2022 budget from Congress. At the request of Senator Murkowski, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough is scheduled to receive funding for the Mat-Su Beetle Kill Fire Reduction Initiative. On June 7, 2022 the Assembly was provided Informational Memorandum No. 22-141, informing them of the Managers signature on a required application for that \$385,000 Federal Earmark. On September 26, 2022 the Borough was provided

the grant agreement which this legislation will accept and appropriate.

While this funding was congressionally designated by Senator Murkowski, it was under a U.S. Forest Services grant program that requires a 50% match. Therefore the borough match requirement is \$385,000.

The grant funding will be used in conjunction with the borough match funding, for the Saw Crew Project. The Saw Crew Project, is comprised of a year-round, fuel reduction crew, coordinating with borough facility managers to develop and implement facility-specific fuel reduction prescriptions. The primary target of the fuel reduction work is beetle-kill spruce.

In addition to this grant funding, the Assembly was informed by Informational Memorandum No. 22-066 of a grant application under the Bureau of Land Management, Alaska Fuels Management and Community Fire Assistance Program Requesting \$150,000, that also required a 50 percent match. The match funding for the anticipated award was placed in the project account from the State Debt Service Reimbursement funding, by Ordinance Serial No. 22-101, and its accompanying Resolution Serial No. 22-080 and Informational Memorandum No. 22-080.

Through various legislative actions funding has been placed in the Saw Crew Project over the last year and the crew is currently working. With the current funding available, the required match amounts, and the wages for the saw crew while we await the acceptance of the funding, staff is anticipating a shortfall of \$245,000 in the project account. Community Development and Finance staff have identified funding in other project accounts that can be moved to make up the difference.

This legislation will amend the budgets of Project 45040 - Municipal Entitlement Lands, and Project 45002 - Census, and extend the expiration dates for all funding through October 31, 2024 to match the grant. This extension will ensure the funding is available for the match through the life of the grant.

RECOMMENDATION OF ADMINISTRATION: Approve legislation as presented.

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH FISCAL NOTE

Agenda Date: October 18, 2022

SUBJECT: ACCEPTING AND APPROPRIATING \$385,000 FROM THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE, APPROVING THE SCOPE OF WORK AND BUDGET, AUTHORIZING THE MANAGER TO ENTER INTO THE GRANT AGREEMENT FOR THE MAT-SU BEETLE KILL FIRE REDUCTION INITIATIVE, AND APPROVING THE AMENDED BUDGETS OF THE MUNICIPAL ENTITLEMENT LANDS PROJECT AND THE CENSUS PROJECT.

ORIGINATOR: Pamela Graham, Grants Coordinator

FISCAL ACTION (TO BE COMPLETED BY FINANCE)	FISCAL IMPACT <u>YES</u> NO
AMOUNT REQUESTED <u>812,897.82 *</u>	FUNDING SOURCE <u>Grant / Grant Match</u>
FROM ACCOUNT # <u>450.00.00 xxx.xx x</u>	PROJECT <u>45040/4502</u>
TO ACCOUNT: <u>450.00.00 xxx.xx x</u>	PROJECT # <u>47109</u>
VERIFIED BY: <u>[Signature]</u>	CERTIFIED BY:
DATE: <u>10-6-22</u>	DATE:

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES:

(Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025	FY2026
Personnel Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land/Structures						
Grants, Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING						

CAPITAL						
---------	--	--	--	--	--	--

REVENUE						
---------	--	--	--	--	--	--

FUNDING:

(Thousands of Dollars)

General Fund						
State/Federal Funds			<u>385.0</u>			
Other			<u>427.9</u>			
TOTAL			<u>812.9</u>			

POSITIONS:

Full-Time						
Part-Time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary) pending liquidation of current POS for the match

PREPARED BY: _____ PHONE: _____
 DEPARTMENT: Chugach Denali DATE: _____
 APPROVED BY: _____ DATE: 10/10/2022

**FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
AWARD OF DOMESTIC GRANT 22-DG-11100106-814
Between
MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
And The
USDA, FOREST SERVICE
PACIFIC NORTHWEST REGION, STATE AND PRIVATE FORESTRY**

Project Title: Mat-Su Beetle Kill Fire Reduction Initiative

Upon execution of this document, an award to Matanuska-Susitna Borough, hereinafter referred to as "Recipient," in the amount of **\$385,000.00**, is made under the authority of Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2022, P.L. 117-103. The Federal Assistance Listing (formerly Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance - CFDA) number and name are 10.723, Community Project Funds - Congressionally Directed Spending. The recipient accepts this award for the purpose described in the application narrative. Your application for Federal financial assistance, dated 05/24/2022, and the attached Forest Service provisions, 'Forest Service Award Provisions,' are incorporated into this letter and made a part of this award.

This authority requires a match of 50 percent. Your organization has agreed to provide match in the amount of \$385,000.00, as shown in the attached application, financial plan and narrative.

This is an award of Federal financial assistance. Prime and sub-recipients to this award are subject to the OMB guidance in subparts A through F of 2 CFR Part 200 as adopted and supplemented by the USDA in 2 CFR Part 400. Adoption by USDA of the OMB guidance in 2 CFR 400 gives regulatory effect to the OMB guidance in 2 CFR 200 where full text may be found.

Electronic copies of the CFRs can be obtained at the following internet site: www.ecfr.gov. If you are unable to retrieve these regulations electronically, please contact your Grants and Agreements Office at (see U.S. Forest Service Administrative Contact information in Provision B).

The following administrative provisions apply to this award:

- A. **LEGAL AUTHORITY.** Recipient shall have the legal authority to enter into this award, and the institutional, managerial, and financial capability to ensure proper planning, management, and completion of the project, which includes funds sufficient to pay the non-Federal share of project costs, when applicable.



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- B. PRINCIPAL CONTACTS. Individuals listed below are authorized to act in their respective areas for matters related to this award.

Principal Cooperator Contacts:

Cooperator Program Contact	Cooperator Administrative Contact
Emerson Krueger Natural Resource Manager Matanuska-Susitna Borough 350 East Dahlia Ave Palmer, AK 99645 Phone: 907-861-7867 Email: Emerson.Krueger@matsugov.us	Pam Graham Grants Coordinator Matanuska-Susitna Borough 350 East Dahlia Ave Palmer, AK 99645 Phone: 907-861-8408 Email: Pam.Graham@matsugov.us

Principal Forest Service Contacts:

Forest Service Program Manager Contact	Forest Service Administrative Contact
Sheila Walker Cooperative Fire Program Manager U.S. Forest Service 1835 Black Lake Blvd SW, Suite A Olympia, WA 98512-5607 Office: 360-956-2298 Cell Phone: 503-313-2784 Email: Sheila.walker2@usda.gov	Judith Lang Grants Management Specialist R6 Grants & Agreements (S&PF) 1220 SW 3 rd AVE STE 1600 Portland, OR 97204-2818 Office: 503-808-2338 Cell Phone: 503-341-5716 Email: judith.lang@usda.gov

- C. SYSTEM FOR AWARD MANAGEMENT REGISTRATION REQUIREMENT (SAM). Recipient shall maintain current information in the System for Award Management (SAM) until receipt of final payment. This requires review and update to the information at least annually after the initial registration, and more frequently if required by changes in information or award term(s). Additional information about registration procedures may be found at the SAM Internet site at www.sam.gov.
- D. ADVANCE AND REIMBURSABLE PAYMENTS – FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE. Advance and Reimbursable payments are approved under this award. Only costs for those project activities approved in (1) the initial award, or (2) modifications thereto, are allowable. Requests for payment must be submitted on Standard Form 270 (SF-270), Request for Advance or Reimbursement, and must be submitted at least semi-annually and no more than monthly. In order to approve a Request for Advance Payment or Reimbursement, the Forest Service shall review such requests to ensure advances or payments for reimbursement are in compliance and otherwise consistent with OMB, USDA, and Forest Service regulations.

Advance payments must not exceed the minimum amount needed or no more than is

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needed for a 30-day period, whichever is less. If the Recipient receives an advance payment and subsequently requests an advance or reimbursement payment, then the request must clearly demonstrate that the previously advanced funds have been fully expended before the Forest Service can approve the request for payment. Any funds advanced, but not spent, upon expiration of this award must be returned to the Forest Service.

The Program Manager reserves the right to request additional information prior to approving a payment. Recipient's financial and performance reports need to be current prior to approval of invoices (*see Financial and Performance report Provisions in Attachment A for additional information; details on due dates and submittal process*).

The invoice must be sent by one of three methods:	Send a copy to:
EMAIL (preferred): SM.FS.asc_ga@usda.gov	sheila.walker2@usda.gov
FAX: 877-687-4894	and
POSTAL: Albuquerque Service Center Payments – Grants & Agreements 101B Sun Ave NE Albuquerque, NM 87109	SM.FS.spf-reports@usda.gov

- E. INDIRECT COST RATE. Recipient has elected not to assess indirect costs.
- F. PRIOR WRITTEN APPROVAL. Recipient shall obtain prior written approval pursuant to conditions set forth in 2 CFR 200.407.
- G. MODIFICATIONS. Modifications within the scope of this award must be made by mutual consent of the parties, by the issuance of a written modification signed and dated by all properly authorized signatory officials, prior to any changes being performed. Requests for modification should be made, in writing, at least 60 days prior to implementation of the requested change. The Forest Service is not obligated to fund any changes not properly approved in advance.
- H. PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE. This agreement is executed as of the date of the Forest Service signatory official signature.

This agreement expires 10/31/2024. This instrument may be extended by a properly executed modification. (*See Modification Provision G*).
- I. AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES. By signature below, each party certifies that the individuals listed in this document as representatives of the individual parties are authorized to act in their respective areas for matters related to this award. In witness whereof the parties hereto have executed this award.

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MICHAEL BROWN, Borough Manager
Matanuska-Susitna Borough

Date

ALEX ROBERTSON, Director, Fire, Fuels & Aviation Management.
USDA Forest Service, Alaska and Pacific Northwest Regions

Date

The authority and the format of this award have been reviewed and approved for signature.

LANA CRUZ

Digitally signed by LANA
CRUZ
Date: 2022.09.26
09:06:58 -07'00'

LANA CRUZ
U.S. Forest Service, Grants Management Specialist

Date

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ATTACHMENT A: FOREST SERVICE AWARD PROVISIONS

- A. COLLABORATIVE ARRANGEMENTS. Where permitted by terms of the award and Federal law, Recipient a may enter into collaborative arrangements with other organizations to jointly carry out activities with Forest Service funds available under this award.
- B. FOREST SERVICE LIABILITY TO THE RECIPIENT. The United States shall not be liable to Recipient for any costs, damages, claims, liabilities, and judgments that arise in connection with the performance of work under this award, including damage to any property owned by Recipient or any third party.
- C. NOTICES. Any notice given by the Forest Service or Recipient will be sufficient only if in writing and delivered in person, mailed, or transmitted electronically by e-mail or fax, as follows:

To the Forest Service Program Manager, at the address specified in the award.

To Recipient, at the address shown in the award or such other address designated within the award.

Notices will be effective when delivered in accordance with this provision, or on the effective date of the notice, whichever is later.

- D. SUBAWARDS. Prior approval is required to issue subawards under this grant. The intent to subaward must be identified in the approved budget and scope of work and approved in the initial award or through subsequent modifications. Approval of each individual subaward is not required, however the cooperator must document that each sub-recipient does NOT have active exclusions in the System for Award Management (sam.gov).

The Cooperator must also ensure that they have evaluated each subrecipient's risk in accordance with 2 CFR 200.332 (b).

Any subrecipient under this award must be notified that they are subject to the OMB guidance in subparts A through F of 2 CFR Part 200, as adopted and supplemented by the USDA in 2 CFR Part 400. Any sub-award must follow the regulations found in 2 CFR 200.331 through .333.

All subawards \$30,000 or more must be reported at fsrs.gov in compliance with 2 CFR 170. See Attachment B for full text.

- E. FINANCIAL STATUS REPORTING. A Federal Financial Report, Standard Form SF-425 (and Federal Financial Report Attachment, SF-425A, if required for reporting multiple awards), must be submitted quarterly. These reports are due 30 days after the reporting period ending March 30, June 30, September 30, and December 31. The final

SF-425 (and SF-425A, if applicable) must be submitted either with the final payment request or no later than 120 days from the expiration date of the award. These forms may be found at <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/forms.html>.

- F. PROGRAM PERFORMANCE REPORTS. The recipient shall perform all actions identified and funded in application/modification narratives within the performance period identified in award.

In accordance with 2 CFR 200.301, reports must relate financial data to performance accomplishments of the federal award.

Recipient shall submit quarterly performance reports. These reports are due 30 days after the reporting period ending March 30, June 30, September 30, and December 31. The final performance report shall be submitted either with Recipient's final payment request, or separately, but not later than 120 days from the expiration date of the award.

- Additional pertinent information: Reports should be sent to the primary Forest Service Program Manager contact(s) as identified in Provision B (cc SM.FS.spf-reports@usda.gov on your transmittal).

- G. NOTIFICATION. Recipient shall immediately notify the Forest Service of developments that have a significant impact on the activities supported under this award. Also, notification must be given in case of problems, delays or adverse conditions that materially impair the ability to meet the objectives of the award. This notification must include a statement of the action taken or contemplated, and any assistance needed to resolve the situation.

- H. CHANGES IN KEY PERSONNEL. Any revision to key personnel identified in this award requires notification of the Forest Service Program Manager by email or letter.

- I. USE OF FOREST SERVICE INSIGNIA. In order for Recipient to use the Forest Service insignia on any published media, such as a Web page, printed publication, or audiovisual production, permission must be granted by the Forest Service's Office of Communications (Washington Office). A written request will be submitted by Forest Service, Program Manager, to the Office of Communications Assistant Director, Visual Information and Publishing Services prior to use of the insignia. The Forest Service Program Manager will notify Recipient when permission is granted.

- J. FUNDING EQUIPMENT. Federal funding under this award is not available for reimbursement of Recipient's purchase of equipment. Equipment is defined as having a fair market value of \$5,000 or more per unit and a useful life of over one year. Supplies are those items that are not equipment.

- K. PUBLIC NOTICES. It is Forest Service's policy to inform the public as fully as possible of its programs and activities. Recipient is encouraged to give public notice of the receipt of this award and, from time to time, to announce progress and

accomplishments.

Recipient may call on Forest Service's Office of Communication for advice regarding public notices. Recipient is requested to provide copies of notices or announcements to the Forest Service Program Manager and to Forest Service's Office Communications as far in advance of release as possible.

- L. FOREST SERVICE ACKNOWLEDGED IN PUBLICATIONS, AUDIOVISUALS, AND ELECTRONIC MEDIA. Recipient shall acknowledge Forest Service support in any publications, audiovisuals, and electronic media developed as a result of this award. Follow direction in USDA Supplemental 2 CFR 415.2.
- M. COPYRIGHTING. Recipient is/are granted sole and exclusive right to copyright any publications developed as a result of this award. This includes the right to publish and vend throughout the world in any language and in all media and forms, in whole or in part, for the full term of copyright and all renewals thereof in accordance with this award.

No original text or graphics produced and submitted by the Forest Service shall be copyrighted. The Forest Service reserves a royalty-free, nonexclusive, and irrevocable right to reproduce, publish, or otherwise use, and to authorize others to use the work for federal government purposes.

This right shall be transferred to any sub-awards or subcontracts.

This provision includes:

- The copyright in any work developed by Recipient under this award.
- Any right of copyright to which Recipient purchase(s) ownership with any federal contributions.

- N. NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT – PRINTED, ELECTRONIC, OR AUDIOVISUAL MATERIAL. Recipient shall include the following statement, in full, in any printed, audiovisual material, or electronic media for public distribution developed or printed with any Federal funding.

In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, and reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.)

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, and American Sign Language) should contact the responsible State or local Agency that administers

the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, which can be obtained online at <https://www.ocio.usda.gov/document/ad-3027>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

- (1) Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or*
- (2) Fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or*
- (3) Email: program.intake@usda.gov.*

If the material is too small to permit the full Non-Discrimination Statement to be included, the material will, at a minimum, include the alternative statement:

"This institution is an equal opportunity provider."

O. DISPUTES.

1. Any dispute under this award shall be decided by the Signatory Official. The Signatory Official shall furnish Recipient a written copy of the decision.
2. Decisions of the Signatory Official shall be final unless, within 30 days of receipt of the decision of the Signatory Official, Recipient appeal(s) the decision to the Forest Service's Director, Fire, Fuels and Aviation Management (FAM). Any appeal made under this provision shall be in writing and addressed to the Director, FAM, USDA, Forest Service, Washington, DC 20024. A copy of the appeal shall be concurrently furnished to the Signatory Official.
3. In order to facilitate review on the record by the Director, FAM, Recipient shall be given an opportunity to submit written evidence in support of its appeal. No hearing will be provided.
4. A decision under this provision by the Director, FAM is final.
5. The final decision by the Director, FAM does not preclude Recipient from pursuing remedies available under the law.

- P. AWARD CLOSEOUT. Recipient must submit, no later than 120 calendar days after the end date of the period of performance, all financial, performance, and other reports as required by the terms and conditions of the Federal award.

Any unobligated balance of cash advanced to Recipient must be immediately refunded to the Forest Service, including any interest earned in accordance with 2 CFR 200.344(d).

If this award is closed without audit, the Forest Service reserves the right to disallow and recover an appropriate amount after fully considering any recommended disallowances resulting from an audit which may be conducted later.

- Q. TERMINATION. This award may be terminated, in whole or part pursuant to 2 CFR 200.340.
- R. DEBARMENT AND SUSPENSION. Recipient shall immediately inform the Forest Service if they or any of their principals are presently excluded, debarred, or suspended from entering into covered transactions with the federal government according to the terms of 2 CFR Part 180. Additionally, should Recipient or any of their principals receive a transmittal letter or other official federal notice of debarment or suspension, then they shall notify the Forest Service without undue delay. This applies whether the exclusion, debarment, or suspension is voluntary or involuntary. The Recipient shall adhere to 2 CFR Part 180 Subpart C in regards to review of sub-recipients or contracts for debarment and suspension.
- All subrecipients and contractors must complete the form AD-1048, Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion, Lower Tier Covered Transactions. Blank forms are available electronically. Completed forms must be kept on file with the primary recipient.
- S. MEMBERS OF CONGRESS. Pursuant to 41 U.S.C. 22, no member of, or delegate to, Congress shall be admitted to any share or part of this award, or benefits that may arise therefrom, either directly or indirectly.
- T. TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS.

1. Provisions applicable to a Recipient that is a private entity.

- a. You as the Recipient, your employees, Subrecipients under this award, and Subrecipients' employees may not:
- (1) Engage in severe forms of trafficking in persons during the period of time that the award is in effect;
 - (2) Procure a commercial sex act during the period of time that the award is in effect; or
 - (3) Use forced labor in the performance of the award or subawards under the award.
- b. We as the Federal awarding agency may unilaterally terminate this award, without penalty, if you or a Subrecipient that is a private entity:

- (1) Is determined to have violated a prohibition in paragraph a.1 of this award term; or
 - (2) Has an employee who is determined by the agency official authorized to terminate the award to have violated a prohibition in paragraph a.1 of this award term through conduct that is either:
 - i. Associated with performance under this award; or
 - ii. Imputed to you or the subrecipient using the standards and due process for imputing the conduct of an individual to an organization that are provided in 2 CFR part 180, “OMB Guidelines to Agencies on Government wide Debarment and Suspension (Nonprocurement),”.
2. Provision applicable to a Recipient other than a private entity. We as the Federal awarding agency may unilaterally terminate this award, without penalty, if a subrecipient that is a private entity:
 - a. Is determined to have violated an applicable prohibition in paragraph a.1 of this award term; or
 - b. Has an employee who is determined by the agency official authorized to terminate the award to have violated an applicable prohibition in paragraph a.1 of this award term through conduct that is either—
 - (1) Associated with performance under this award; or
 - (2) Imputed to the subrecipient using the standards and due process for imputing the conduct of an individual to an organization that are provided in 2 CFR part 180, “OMB Guidelines to Agencies on Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension (Nonprocurement),”
3. Provisions applicable to any recipient.
 - a. You must inform us immediately of any information you receive from any source alleging a violation of a prohibition in paragraph a.1 of this award term.
 - b. Our right to terminate unilaterally that is described in paragraph a.2 or b of this section:
 - (1) Implements section 106(g) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA), as amended (22 U.S.C. 7104(g)), and
 - (2) Is in addition to all other remedies for noncompliance that are available to us under this award.
 - c. You must include the requirements of paragraph a.1 of this award term in any subaward you make to a private entity.
4. Definitions. For purposes of this award term:
 - a. “Employee” means either:
 - (1) An individual employed by you or a subrecipient who is engaged in the performance of the project or program under this award; or
 - (2) Another person engaged in the performance of the project or program under this award and not compensated by you including, but not limited to, a volunteer or individual whose services are contributed by a third party as an in-kind contribution toward cost sharing or matching requirements.

- b. "Forced labor" means labor obtained by any of the following methods: the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.
- c. "Private entity":
 - (1) Means any entity other than a State, local government, Indian tribe, or foreign public entity, as those terms are defined in 2 CFR 175.25.
 - (2) Includes:
 - i. A nonprofit organization, including any nonprofit institution of higher education, hospital, or tribal organization other than one included in the definition of Indian tribe at 2 CFR 175.25(b).
 - ii. A for-profit organization.
- d. "Severe forms of trafficking in persons," "commercial sex act," and "coercion" have the meanings given at section 103 of the TVPA, as amended (22 U.S.C. 7102).

U. DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE.

1. Recipient agree(s) that it will publish a drug-free workplace statement and provide a copy to each employee who will be engaged in the performance of any project/program that receives federal funding. The statement must
 - a. Tell the employees that the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession, or use of a controlled substance is prohibited in its workplace;
 - b. Specify the actions Recipient will take against employees for violating that prohibition; and
 - c. Let each employee know that, as a condition of employment under any award, the employee:
 - (1) Shall abide by the terms of the statement, and
 - (2) Shall notify Recipient in writing if they are convicted for a violation of a criminal drug statute occurring in the workplace, and shall do so no more than 5 calendar days after the conviction.
2. Recipient agree(s) that it will establish an ongoing drug-free awareness program to inform employees about
 - a. The dangers of drug abuse in the workplace;
 - b. The established policy of maintaining a drug-free workplace;
 - c. Any available drug counseling, rehabilitation and employee assistance programs; and
 - d. The penalties that you may impose upon them for drug abuse violations occurring in the workplace.
3. Without the Program Manager's expressed written approval, the policy statement and program must be in place as soon as possible, no later than the 30 days after the effective date of this instrument, or the completion date of this award, whichever occurs first.

4. Recipient agrees to immediately notify the Program Manager if an employee is convicted of a drug violation in the workplace. The notification must be in writing, identify the employee's position title, the award number of each award on which the employee worked. The notification must be sent to the Program Manager within 10 calendar days after Recipient learns of the conviction.
5. Within 30 calendar days of learning about an employee's conviction, Recipient must either
 - a. Take appropriate personnel action against the employee, up to and including termination, consistent with the requirements of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 USC 794), as amended, or
 - b. Require the employee to participate satisfactorily in a drug abuse assistance or rehabilitation program approved for these purposes by a Federal, State or local health, law enforcement, or other appropriate agency.

V. PROHIBITION AGAINST USING FUNDS WITH ENTITIES THAT REQUIRE CERTAIN INTERNAL CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENTS.

1. The recipient may not require its employees, contractors, or subrecipients seeking to report fraud, waste, or abuse to sign or comply with internal confidentiality agreements or statements prohibiting or otherwise restricting them from lawfully reporting that waste, fraud, or abuse to a designated investigative or law enforcement representative of a Federal department or agency authorized to receive such information.
2. The recipient must notify its employees, contractors, or subrecipients that the prohibitions and restrictions of any internal confidentiality agreements inconsistent with paragraph (1) of this award provision are no longer in effect.
3. The prohibition in paragraph (1) of this award provision does not contravene requirements applicable to any other form issued by a Federal department or agency governing the nondisclosure of classified information.
4. If the Government determines that the recipient is not in compliance with this award provision, it;
 - a. Will prohibit the recipient's use of funds under this award in accordance with sections 743, 744 of Division E of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016, (Pub. L. 114-113) or any successor provision of law; and
 - b. May pursue other remedies available for the recipient's material failure to comply with award terms and conditions.

- W. ELIGIBLE WORKERS. Recipient shall ensure that all employees complete the I-9 form to certify that they are eligible for lawful employment under the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324(a)). Recipient shall comply with regulations regarding certification and retention of the completed forms. These requirements also apply to any contract or supplemental instruments awarded under this award.

- X. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (FOIA). Public access to award or agreement records must not be limited, except when such records must be kept confidential and would have been exempted from disclosure pursuant to Freedom of Information regulations (5 U.S.C. 552). Requests for research data are subject to 2 CFR 315(e).

Public access to culturally sensitive data and information of Federally-recognized Tribes may also be explicitly limited by P.L. 110-234, Title VIII Subtitle B §8106 (2009 Farm Bill).

- Y. TEXT MESSAGING WHILE DRIVING. In accordance with Executive Order (EO) 13513, "Federal Leadership on Reducing Text Messaging While Driving," any and all text messaging by Federal employees is banned: a) while driving a Government owned vehicle (GOV) or driving a privately owned vehicle (POV) while on official Government business; or b) using any electronic equipment supplied by the Government when driving any vehicle at any time. All Cooperators, their Employees, Volunteers, and Contractors are encouraged to adopt and enforce policies that ban text messaging when driving company owned, leased or rented vehicles, POVs or GOVs when driving while on official Government business or when performing any work for or on behalf of the Government.

- Z. PROMOTING FREE SPEECH AND RELIGIOUS FREEDOM. As a recipient of USDA financial assistance, you will comply with the following:
1. Do not discriminate against applicants for sub-grants on the basis of their religious character.
 2. 7 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) part 16.3(a), Rights of Religious Organizations.
 3. Statutory and National policy requirements, including those prohibiting discrimination and those described in Executive Order 13798 promoting free speech and religious freedom, 2 CFR 200.300.

- AA. PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND VIDEO SURVEILLANCE SERVICES OR EQUIPMENT. The cooperator (including subrecipients) is responsible for compliance with the prohibition on certain telecommunications and video surveillance services or equipment identified in 2 CFR 200.216. See Public Law 115-232, Section 889 for additional information.

In accordance with 2 CFR 200.216, the grantee (including subrecipients) is prohibited from obligating or expending loan or grant funds for covered telecommunications equipment or services to:

- (1) procure or obtain, extend or renew a contract to procure or obtain;
- (2) enter into a contract (or extend or renew a contract) to procure; or
- (3) obtain the equipment, services or systems.

ATTACHMENT B: 2 CFR PART 170

Appendix A to Part 170—Award Term

I. Reporting Subawards and Executive Compensation

a. *Reporting of first-tier subawards.*

1. *Applicability.* Unless you are exempt as provided in paragraph d. of this award term, you must report each action that equals or exceeds \$30,000 in Federal funds for a subaward to a non-Federal entity or Federal agency (see definitions in paragraph e. of this award term).
2. *Where and when to report.*
 - i. The non-Federal entity or Federal agency must report each obligating action described in paragraph a.1. of this award term to <http://www.fsrs.gov>.
 - ii. For subaward information, report no later than the end of the month following the month in which the obligation was made. (For example, if the obligation was made on November 7, 2010, the obligation must be reported by no later than December 31, 2010.)
3. *What to report.* You must report the information about each obligating action that the submission instructions posted at <http://www.fsrs.gov> specify.

b. *Reporting total compensation of recipient executives for non-Federal entities.*

1. *Applicability and what to report.* You must report total compensation for each of your five most highly compensated executives for the preceding completed fiscal year, if—
 - i. The total Federal funding authorized to date under this Federal award equals or exceeds \$30,000 as defined in 2 CFR 170.320;
 - ii. in the preceding fiscal year, you received—
 - (A) 80 percent or more of your annual gross revenues from Federal procurement contracts (and subcontracts) and Federal financial assistance subject to the Transparency Act, as defined at 2 CFR 170.320 (and subawards), and
 - (B) \$25,000,000 or more in annual gross revenues from Federal procurement contracts (and subcontracts) and Federal financial assistance subject to the Transparency Act, as defined at 2 CFR 170.320 (and subawards); and,
 - iii. The public does not have access to information about the compensation of the executives through periodic reports filed under section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78m(a), 78o(d)) or section 6104 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. (To determine if the public has access to the compensation information, see the U.S. Security and Exchange Commission total compensation filings at <http://www.sec.gov/answers/execomp.htm>.)
2. *Where and when to report.* You must report executive total compensation described in paragraph b.1. of this award term:
 - i. As part of your registration profile at <https://www.sam.gov>.
 - ii. By the end of the month following the month in which this award is made, and annually thereafter.

c. *Reporting of Total Compensation of Subrecipient Executives.*

1. *Applicability and what to report.* Unless you are exempt as provided in paragraph d. of this award term, for each first-tier non-Federal entity subrecipient under this award, you shall report the names and total compensation of each of the subrecipient's five most

- highly compensated executives for the subrecipient's preceding completed fiscal year, if—
- i. in the subrecipient's preceding fiscal year, the subrecipient received—
 - (A) 80 percent or more of its annual gross revenues from Federal procurement contracts (and subcontracts) and Federal financial assistance subject to the Transparency Act, as defined at 2 CFR 170.320 (and subawards) and,
 - (B) \$25,000,000 or more in annual gross revenues from Federal procurement contracts (and subcontracts), and Federal financial assistance subject to the Transparency Act (and subawards); and
 - ii. The public does not have access to information about the compensation of the executives through periodic reports filed under section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78m(a), 78o(d)) or section 6104 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. (To determine if the public has access to the compensation information, see the U.S. Security and Exchange Commission total compensation filings at <http://www.sec.gov/answers/execomp.htm>.)
2. *Where and when to report.* You must report subrecipient executive total compensation described in paragraph c.1. of this award term:
- i. To the recipient.
 - ii. By the end of the month following the month during which you make the subaward. For example, if a subaward is obligated on any date during the month of October of a given year (*i.e.*, between October 1 and 31), you must report any required compensation information of the subrecipient by November 30 of that year.
- d. *Exemptions.* If, in the previous tax year, you had gross income, from all sources, under \$300,000, you are exempt from the requirements to report:
- i. Subawards, and
 - ii. The total compensation of the five most highly compensated executives of any subrecipient.
- e. *Definitions.* For purposes of this award term:
1. Federal Agency means a Federal agency as defined at 5 U.S.C. 551(1) and further clarified by 5 U.S.C. 552(f).
 2. Non-Federal *entity* means all of the following, as defined in 2 CFR part 25:
 - i. A Governmental organization, which is a State, local government, or Indian tribe;
 - ii. A foreign public entity;
 - iii. A domestic or foreign nonprofit organization; and,
 - iv. A domestic or foreign for-profit organization
 3. *Executive* means officers, managing partners, or any other employees in management positions.
 4. *Subaward:*
 - i. This term means a legal instrument to provide support for the performance of any portion of the substantive project or program for which you received this award and that you as the recipient award to an eligible subrecipient.
 - ii. The term does not include your procurement of property and services needed to carry out the project or program (for further explanation, see 2 CFR 200.331).
 - iii. A subaward may be provided through any legal agreement, including an agreement that you or a subrecipient considers a contract.

5. *Subrecipient* means a non-Federal entity or Federal agency that:
 - i. Receives a subaward from you (the recipient) under this award; and
 - ii. Is accountable to you for the use of the Federal funds provided by the subaward.
6. *Total compensation* means the cash and noncash dollar value earned by the executive during the recipient's or subrecipient's preceding fiscal year and includes the following (for more information see 17 CFR 229.402(c)(2)).

END OF ATTACHMENT B: 2 CFR PART 170

IM 22-231
OR 22-126
RS 22-107

ATTACHMENT C: WHISTLEBLOWER NOTICE

Whistleblowers perform an important service to USDA and the public when they come forward with what they reasonably believe to be evidence of wrongdoing. They should never be subject to reprisal for doing so. Federal law protects federal employees as well as personal services contractors and employees of Federal contractors, subcontractors, grantees, and subgrantees against reprisal for whistleblowing. USDA bears the responsibility to ensure that nothing in a non-disclosure agreement which a contractor, subcontractor, grantee, or subgrantee requires their employees to sign should be interpreted as limiting their ability to provide information to the Office of Inspector General (OIG).

41 U.S.C. § 4712 requires the head of each executive agency to ensure that its contractors inform their workers in writing of the rights and remedies under the statute.

Accordingly, it is illegal for a personal services contractor or an employee of a Federal contractor, subcontractor, grantee, or subgrantee to be discharged, demoted, or otherwise discriminated against for making a protected whistleblower disclosure. In this context, these categories of individuals are whistleblowers who disclose information that the individual reasonably believes is evidence of one of the following:

- Gross mismanagement of a Federal contract or grant;
- A gross waste of Federal funds;
- An abuse of authority relating to a Federal contract or grant;
- A substantial and specific danger to public health or safety; or
- A violation of law, rule, or regulation related to a Federal contract (including the competition for or negotiation of a contract) or grant.

To be protected under 41 U.S.C. § 4712, the disclosure must be made to one of the following:

- A Member of Congress, or a representative of a committee of Congress;
- The OIG;
- The Government Accountability Office (GAO);
- A Federal employee responsible for contract or grant oversight or management at USDA;
- An otherwise authorized official at USDA or other law enforcement agency;
- A court or grand jury; or
- A management official or other employee of the contractor, subcontractor, or grantee who has the responsibility to investigate, discover, or address misconduct.

Under 41 U.S.C. § 4712, personal services contractors as well as employees of contractors, subcontractors, grantees, or subgrantees may file a complaint with OIG, who will investigate the matter unless they determine that the complaint is frivolous, fails to allege a violation of the prohibition against whistleblower reprisal, or has been addressed in another proceeding. OIG's investigation is then presented to the head of the executive agency who evaluates the facts of the investigation and can order the contractor, subcontractor, grantee, or subgrantee

to take remedial action, such as reinstatement or back pay.

Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Subpart 3.903, *Whistleblower Protections for Contractor Employees, Policy*, prohibits government contractors from retaliating against a contract worker for making a protected disclosure related to the contract. FAR Subpart 3.909-1 prohibits the Government from using funds for a contract with an entity that requires its employees or subcontractors to sign internal confidentiality statements prohibiting or restricting disclosures of fraud, waste, or abuse to designated persons. This prohibition does not contravene agreements pertaining to classified information. The regulation also requires contracting officers to insert FAR clause 52.203-17, *Contractor Employee Whistleblower Rights and Requirement to Inform Employees of Whistleblower Rights*, in all solicitations and contracts that exceed the Simplified Acquisition Threshold as defined in FAR Subpart 3.908. This clause requires notification to contractor employees that they are subject to the whistleblower rights and remedies referenced in 41 U.S.C. § 4712.

In order to make a complaint alleging any of the violations mentioned above, one should complete the OIG Hotline form located at: <https://www.usda.gov/oig/hotline>. For additional information, they may also visit the WPC's webpage at: <https://www.usda.gov/oig/wpc> or they may directly contact the WPC at OIGWPC@oig.usda.gov.

IM 22-231
OR 22-126
RS 22-107



MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

Office of the Borough Manager

350 East Dahlia Avenue • Palmer, AK 99645

Phone (907) 861-8689 • Fax (907) 861-8669

Mike.Brown@matsugov.us

May 23, 2022

SUBMITTED VIA EMAIL

Sheila Walker, Cooperative Fire Program Manager
State and Private Forestry
Forest Service
1220 SW 3rd Avenue
Portland, OR 97204

Re: Mat-Su Beetle Kill Fire Reduction Initiative Grant Application

Dear Ms. Walker,

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough respectfully submits this application requesting \$385,000 in grant funds for the Mat-Su Beetle Kill Fire Reduction Initiative in response to your letter dated March 9, 2022. As directed, the following items have been completed, signed and are attached:

- This Cover Letter;
- SF-424 Application for Federal Assistance;
- SF-424A Budget Information;
- Project narrative;
- SF-424B, Assurances – Non-Construction Programs;
- AD-1047, Certification Regarding Debarment and Suspension;
- AD-1049, Certification Regarding Drug-Free Workplace;
- FS-1500-35, Certification Regarding Lobbying; and
- FS-1500-22, Financial Capability Questionnaire.

The Mat-Su Borough will provide the required \$385,000 cash match with funding from the existing Saw Crew Project, and budget appropriations.

We look forward to cooperating with the State and Private Forestry and the State of Alaska with this beneficial treatment on borough-owned land. Please contact Emerson Krueger directly at (907) 841-7867 if you have questions regarding this application.

Sincerely,

Michael Brown
Borough Manager

Recommended for approval

Enclosures

cc: Emerson Krueger, Natural Resource Manager

08/19/2022

Providing Outstanding Borough Services to the Matanuska-Susitna Community

IM 22-23/
OR 22-124
RS 22-107

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424		
* 1. Type of Submission: <input type="checkbox"/> Preapplication <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Application <input type="checkbox"/> Changed/Corrected Application		
* 2. Type of Application: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Continuation <input type="checkbox"/> Revision		
* If Revision, select appropriate letter(s): _____ * Other (Specify): _____		
* 3. Date Received: 08/17/2022		4. Applicant Identifier: _____
5a. Federal Entity Identifier: _____		5b. Federal Award Identifier: 22-DG-11100106-814
State Use Only:		
6. Date Received by State: _____		7. State Application Identifier: _____
8. APPLICANT INFORMATION:		
* a. Legal Name: Matanuska-Susitna Borough		
* b. Employer/Taxpayer Identification Number (EIN/TIN): 92-0030816		* c. UEI: QRK7LJ2Y3RJ1
d. Address:		
* Street1: 350 E. Dahlia Ave		
Street2: _____		
* City: Palmer		
County/Parish: _____		
* State: AK: Alaska		
Province: _____		
* Country: USA: UNITED STATES		
* Zip / Postal Code: 99645-0000 99645-6411		
e. Organizational Unit:		
Department Name: Community Development		Division Name: Land and Resource Management
f. Name and contact information of person to be contacted on matters involving this application:		
Prefix: _____	* First Name: Emerson	
Middle Name: _____		
* Last Name: Krueger		
Suffix: _____		
Title: Natural Resource Manager		
Organizational Affiliation: _____		
* Telephone Number: 907-861-7867		Fax Number: _____
* Email: ekrueger@matsugov.us		

IM 22-231
OR 22-126
PS 22-107

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

*** 9. Type of Applicant 1: Select Applicant Type:**

B: County Government

Type of Applicant 2: Select Applicant Type:

Type of Applicant 3: Select Applicant Type:

* Other (specify):

*** 10. Name of Federal Agency:**

US Forest Service

11. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number:

10.723

CFDA Title:

Community Project Funding - Congressionally Designated Funding

*** 12. Funding Opportunity Number:**

N/A

* Title:

N/A

13. Competition Identification Number:

N/A

Title:

N/A

14. Areas Affected by Project (Cities, Counties, States, etc.):

Matanuska-Susitna Borough, AK

Add Attachment

Delete Attachment

View Attachment

*** 15. Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project:**

Mat-Su Beetle Kill Fire Reduction Initiative

Attach supporting documents as specified in agency instructions.

Add Attachments

Delete Attachments

View Attachments

IM 22-231
OR 22-126
RS 22-107

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424**16. Congressional Districts Of:*** a. Applicant * b. Program/Project

Attach an additional list of Program/Project Congressional Districts if needed.

17. Proposed Project:* a. Start Date:

10/31/2024 LC 9/26/22

* b. End Date: **18. Estimated Funding (\$):**

* a. Federal	<input type="text" value="385,000.00"/>
* b. Applicant	<input type="text" value="385,000.00"/>
* c. State	<input type="text"/>
* d. Local	<input type="text"/>
* e. Other	<input type="text"/>
* f. Program Income	<input type="text"/>
* g. TOTAL	<input type="text" value="770,000.00"/>

*** 19. Is Application Subject to Review By State Under Executive Order 12372 Process?**

- ☐ a. This application was made available to the State under the Executive Order 12372 Process for review on .
- ☐ b. Program is subject to E.O. 12372 but has not been selected by the State for review.
- ☒ c. Program is not covered by E.O. 12372.

*** 20. Is the Applicant Delinquent On Any Federal Debt? (If "Yes," provide explanation in attachment.)**☐ Yes ☒ No

If "Yes", provide explanation and attach

21. *By signing this application, I certify (1) to the statements contained in the list of certifications and (2) that the statements herein are true, complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I also provide the required assurances** and agree to comply with any resulting terms if I accept an award. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or claims may subject me to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties. (U.S. Code, Title 218, Section 1001)**

☒ ** I AGREE

** The list of certifications and assurances, or an internet site where you may obtain this list, is contained in the announcement or agency specific instructions.

Authorized Representative:Prefix: * First Name: Middle Name: * Last Name: Suffix: * Title: * Telephone Number: Fax Number: * Email:

* Signature of Authorized Representative:

* Date Signed:

IM 22-231
OR 22-124
RS 22-108

BUDGET INFORMATION - Non-Construction Programs

OMB Number: 4040-0006
Expiration Date: 02/28/2025

SECTION A - BUDGET SUMMARY

Grant Program Function or Activity (a)	Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number (b)	Estimated Unobligated Funds		New or Revised Budget		
		Federal (c)	Non-Federal (d)	Federal (e)	Non-Federal (f)	Total (g)
1. Community Project Funding - Congressional Designated Funding	10.723	\$	\$	\$ 385,000.00	\$	\$ 385,000.00
2. Non-Federal					385,000.00	385,000.00
3.						
4.						
5. Totals		\$	\$	\$ 385,000.00	\$ 385,000.00	\$ 770,000.00

IM 22-231
OR 22-1218
RS 22-107

SECTION B - BUDGET CATEGORIES

6. Object Class Categories	GRANT PROGRAM, FUNCTION OR ACTIVITY				Total (5)
	(1) Community Project Funding - Congressional Designated Funding	(2) Non-Federal	(3)	(4)	
a. Personnel	\$ 263,963.20	\$ 263,963.20	\$	\$	\$ 527,926.40
b. Fringe Benefits	106,425.30	106,425.30			212,850.60
c. Travel	6,100.00	6,100.00			12,200.00
d. Equipment					
e. Supplies	6,261.50	6,261.50			12,523.00
f. Contractual					
g. Construction					
h. Other	2,250.00	2,250.00			4,500.00
i. Total Direct Charges (sum of 6a-6h)	385,000.00	385,000.00			\$ 770,000.00
j. Indirect Charges					\$
k. TOTALS (sum of 6i and 6j)	\$ 385,000.00	\$ 385,000.00	\$	\$	\$ 770,000.00
7. Program Income	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$

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Prescribed by OMB (Circular A -102) Page 1A

IM 22-231
OR 22-126
RS 22-107

SECTION C - NON-FEDERAL RESOURCES				
(a) Grant Program	(b) Applicant	(c) State	(d) Other Sources	(e)TOTALS
8. Community Project Funding - Congressionally	\$ 0.00	\$	\$	\$ 0.00
9. Non-Federal	385,000.00			385,000.00
10.				
11.				
12. TOTAL (sum of lines 8-11)	\$ 385,000.00	\$	\$	\$ 385,000.00

SECTION D - FORECASTED CASH NEEDS					
	Total for 1st Year	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
13. Federal	\$ 96,250.00	\$	\$	\$	\$ 96,250.00
14. Non-Federal	\$ 96,250.00				96,250.00
15. TOTAL (sum of lines 13 and 14)	\$ 192,500.00	\$	\$	\$	\$ 192,500.00

SECTION E - BUDGET ESTIMATES OF FEDERAL FUNDS NEEDED FOR BALANCE OF THE PROJECT				
(a) Grant Program	FUTURE FUNDING PERIODS (YEARS)			
	(b)First	(c) Second	(d) Third	(e) Fourth
16. Community Project Funding - Congressionally	\$ 165,000.00	\$ 123,750.00	\$	\$
17. Non-Federal				
18.				
19.				
20. TOTAL (sum of lines 16 - 19)	\$ 165,000.00	\$ 123,750.00	\$	\$

SECTION F - OTHER BUDGET INFORMATION	
21. Direct Charges: \$385,000.00	22. Indirect Charges: \$0.00
23. Remarks: We are choosing not to bill indirect costs.	

IM 22-231
 OR 22-124
 RS 22-107

Project Timeline

List tasks and time frames

Matanuska-Susitna Borough

Bark Beetle

Tasks	Time Frame	Responsible Party
Construct Shaded fuel breaks at high priority critical facilities	1.5 year	MSB
Construct Shaded fuel breaks at medium priority facilities	1.5 year	MSB
(These 2 tasks will run concurrently)		

IM 22-23)
OR 22-126
RS 22-107

USDA Forest Service Alaska Fuels Management and Community Fire Assistance Program

Matanuska-Susitna Borough

Mat-Su Beetle Kill Fire Reduction Initiative

2022 Saw Crew Project Grant Application

Project Narrative

Title: Borough Saw Crew Project

Statement of Need: The 2021 United States Forestry Service (USFS) Forest Health Conditions in Alaska states that in the last five years, over 1.6 million acres in Southcentral Alaska have been affected by the spruce bark beetle outbreak. Nearly 194,000 acres of spruce bark beetle activity were mapped statewide in 2021, with more than 98% observed within the outbreak area. Local timber data indicate over 90% of all mature white spruce have been killed by the bark beetle in the last five years.

A majority of the mature white spruce in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough (Borough) is standing dead. The wildfire and windthrow risk presented by these trees at public facilities and in high-use public parks is at an all-time high. The unprecedented number of spruce killed by bark beetle infestation added to the over-mature condition of much of the forestland in the Borough along with the unparalleled residential growth, year after year, have continued to expand the urban-wildland boundary and increase the wildfire hazard.

Alaska has a Master Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement. As a result, fire management is the responsibility of three agencies: DOF, BLM (through the Alaska Fire Service [AFS]), and U.S. Forest Service (USFS). In the Borough, State Forestry has the responsibility to manage fire response. The majority of wildland fires that occur in the Borough are human-caused, and most of these fires are located within the wildland urban interface (WUI). These fires have the potential to threaten life and property because of their proximity to habitation.

The frequency and severity of wildland fires is also dependent on other hazards, such as lightning, drought, human causes, and infestations (spruce-bark beetle infestations or spruce needle aphids). The risk of wildfire has increased significantly over the past two decades, due in large part to the spruce-bark beetle infestation. If not promptly controlled, wildland fires may grow into an emergency or disaster. Even small fires can threaten lives and resources and destroy improved properties; they can also impact transportation corridors and/or infrastructure. In addition to affecting people, wildland fires may severely affect livestock and pets. Such events may require emergency water, food, evacuation, and shelter.

Since 1990, Alaska has experienced nearly twice the number of wildfires per decade compared to the period from 1950 to 1980. The map below illustrates historical wildfires in the Borough from 1940 – 1919. Wildfires are becoming increasingly common. The increase in wildfire occurrence, the devastation of the spruce bark beetle, and the increasing population have exacerbated wildfire risk in the Borough.

The Mat-Su Beetle Kill Fire Reduction Initiative, managed by the Land and Resource Management Division, has been implementing the adopted 2008 Borough-wide Community Wildfire Protection Plan through fuel reduction projects.

Over the six-year period, between 2004-2010, there was significant effort and funding expended on fuel reduction activities at public facilities in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough. Since that time there has been continued spruce die off from beetle kill and substantial population growth. The spruce die-off in the last

five years has created significant wildfire hazard at public facilities, namely schools and parks, where treatment has already occurred, as well as at facilities where no fuel reduction was necessary pre-bark beetle outbreak. There are 21 high priority schools and parks where fuel reduction and shaded fuel break are necessary. There is an additional list of medium priority Borough facilities where fuel reduction and fuel breaks are needed.

Discussions with tree service companies, and the outcome of an invitation to bid on a hazard tree felling contract indicated that contracting out fuel reduction work at the number of Borough facilities where the work is needed is cost prohibitive. The Borough encompasses roughly 25,000 square miles, consisting of a mix of boreal forest, wet meadows, mountains, and large open glacial planes. Approximately one third of the Borough, where its 120,000+ residents live, is accessible on the road system. A significant portion of this area is comprised of the urban-wildland interface. The average price for a contractor to perform fuel reduction at a forested 200-acre nature park surrounded by homes was over \$200,000. There are insufficient funds available to pay a contractor to develop and implement a fuel reduction treatment prescription for each of the facilities. A solution being implemented by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough is hiring an in-house Saw Crew.

A goal of this project is to put Americans to work constructing shaded fuel breaks, performing fuel reductions at critical infrastructure, and engaging with the public to raise awareness of Firewise Practices.

Project Scope

The goal of the Beetle Kill Fire Reduction Initiative is to provide targeted wildfire fuel reduction treatment at identified priority critical Borough-owned facilities. Reducing the threat of wildfire at critical facilities through removal of beetle-killed spruce trees and other hazard trees and woody debris is the main focus.

Fuel reduction treatment includes cutting, chipping, bucking, and burning beetle-killed black and white spruce trees at identified high and medium priority Borough-owned facilities such as schools, fire stations, and other areas with high risk of ignition.

The Initiative consists of a four-person saw crew with substantial experience in wildland firefighting and professional saw experience.

Benefits

The Initiative provides shaded fuel breaks that lower fire intensity, enhance control efforts and reduce wildfire threat to identified values at risk (i.e., public safety, schools, homes, and lives). MSB Schools are evacuation centers for our residents. Protecting these facilities from wildfire is critical.

Status

The Initiative was started in November 2021 with Borough funding. Expenditures starting March 15, 2022 are included as part of the cash match.

Approximately 7 high priority schools have been treated. Each prescription is tailored to the individual sites. For example, the site of the new Houston Jr/Sr High School received a 100-foot shaded fuel break around the fence line.

The Borough has created a Saw Crew Project, staffed by four people with substantial experience in firefighting, fuel reduction, and chainsaw operation. This Crew will work year-round, coordinating with facility managers to develop and implement facility-specific fuel reduction prescriptions. The Crew began work in November 2021. Existing funding was approved by the Borough Assembly in two different appropriations. The first appropriation was \$80,000 for wages and benefits for six-month seasonal employees. A second appropriation of \$150,000 was approved in March 2022, after the success of the Crew was presented to the Borough Assembly. The recently approved legislation allowed for the seasonal positions to be converted to year-round project employees. With an upcoming legislative reappropriation, the total Borough funding available is \$385,000.

The Crew has successfully developed and implemented fuel reduction prescriptions for seven critical and wildfire susceptible facilities in its first four months of operation.

Goals and Objectives

The priority list of facilities for the Borough Saw Crew Project was developed through coordination with State Mat-Su Area Fire Management Officer, the School District Facility Management Staff, and the Borough Recreation Services Manager. It is estimated that the Saw Crew project will need to be funded for several years to complete the site maintenance at the facilities where fuel reductions occurred already. The fuel reduction work is focused on the removal of beetle-killed spruce. The USFS grant funding would provide sufficient funding to complete fuel reductions at the priority facilities. Additional fuel reduction work at high-use public recreation areas adjacent to residential areas is the second priority. Fuel reductions in high-risk urban-wildland interface areas is a third priority for Saw Crew. The following is a list of the project goals and objectives in priority order. The first goal is anticipated to require one year. The second goal is anticipated to require one year.:

1. Fuel reduction at high priority critical facilities.
 - a. Create defensible space around schools with shaded fuel breaks.
 - b. Pile and burn or chip slash.
 - c. Buck and stack fuel wood and provide public notice of free firewood.
 - d. Engage with interested public to promote Firewise practices.
2. Fuel reduction at medium priority facilities.
 - a. Create defensible space along public trails by felling, limbing, and bucking dead spruce.
 - b. Pile and burn or chip slash.
 - c. Provide public notice of free firewood.
 - d. Engage with interested public to promote Firewise practices.

Activities

The Borough Saw Crew Project includes the following activities:

1. Fuel reduction site maintenance at high priority Borough facilities
 - a. Crew works with Facility Manager to develop fuel reduction prescription for each facility
 - b. Implement fuel reduction prescription – which includes:
 - i. Felling hazard trees – diseased, insect killed, standing dead.
 - ii. Constructing shaded fuel breaks, with a specific spacing between trees and felling dead spruce and black spruce.

- iii. Limbing, brush piling, slash burning or chipping.
 - iv. Log scattering, or bucking and piling of rounds for firewood.
 - v. Talking to interested public, neighbors, hikers, students, and classes about Firewise and fuel reduction, and promoting availability of firewood.
- 2. Equipment maintenance
 - a. Crew is responsible for maintaining their equipment in good working order.
 - b. Maintenance beyond the Crew's skill is performed by a qualified contractor.
- 3. Fuel Reduction at medium priority Borough facilities.
 - a. Same as above.

Methods

The Borough Saw Crew Project consists of a four-person hand crew, operating a combination of chainsaws and hand tools to accomplish the activities outlined above. The Crew is comprised of former wildland firefighters with experience performing fuel reduction activities and constructing firebreaks. The Crew has contacts with State Forestry and works with them as needed for specific guidance when typical fuel reduction or fire breaks are not feasible. Methods consist of standard hand felling and piling. Brush is most often burned using drip torches and propane torches. All burning is cleared daily with Dispatch and the Fire Management Officer. The Crew has access to a mobile chipper when slash burning is not advisable.

Timetable or Milestones

Each of the 21 High Priority Facilities comprises a milestone. Some of the facilities require minimal cutting and burning to achieve the site maintenance of the fuel reduction sites while others require substantial work making a timetable for individual milestones challenging. The crew has completed seven facilities, with additional fuels reduction at some of the larger acreage public recreation areas. Approximately one year is the estimated time of completion for all 21 high priority facilities. An additional year is required to treat the medium priority facilities.

Details and supporting documentation on the project location

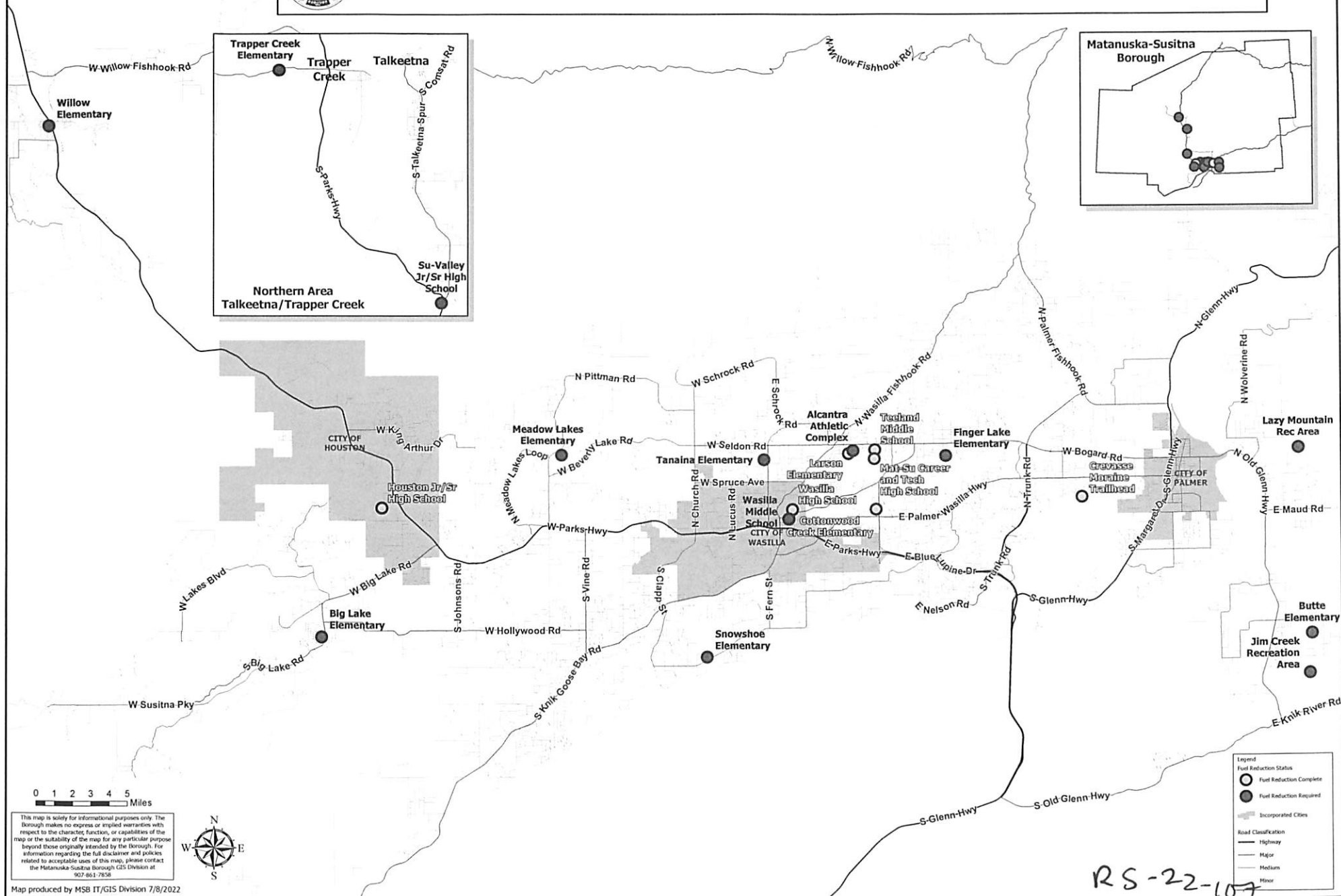
The Matanuska-Susitna Borough occupies about 25,000 square miles in Southcentral Alaska, approximately 40 miles north of Anchorage, Alaska. Roughly one third of the Borough is road accessible. The Borough has been the fastest growing area in Alaska for decades and more recently, from 2010 – 2020, the Borough gained over 18,000 residents. That was 78% of the entire State of Alaska population growth for that decade. High priority school facilities for fuel reduction work are spread across the Borough as shown on the following map. High priority recreation facilities not shown on the map are within the cluster of green and red dots in located at the urban-wildland interface in the region of the highest population density.

The Borough Fuel Reduction Program in partnership with State Forestry, with federal, state, and borough funding performed fuel reductions at 87 locations throughout the Borough between 2004 and 2010. Fuel reduction locations included schools, fire stations, parks, and at key fire breaks along roads. A 2021 evaluation by the Borough and the State Mat-Su Area Fire Management Officer of these locations identified 19 where fuel reduction site maintenance is necessary to mitigate regeneration and spruce die-off plus two additional sites for immediate fuel reduction. The volume of standing dead spruce and over-mature birch at Lazy Mountain Recreation Area and Crevasse Moraine Trail System and the density of adjacent residential development have combined to make these two facilities a priority for fuel reduction.

Examples of the 2004-2010 fuel reduction work highlighting the combination of regeneration and spruce mortality include Cottonwood Elementary. The State Forestry hand crew cut .44 acres around the school in 2008. Since then over 300 spruce died on the property. The Borough Saw Crew constructed a 100 foot shaded fuel break along the primary road, cleared the trees along the fence, and felled 302 dead spruce. The trees were bucked to firewood length. The public was invited to retrieve the free firewood, and over 90% was removed in a one week period in December 2021. Slash was piled and burned or scattered.



USDA Forest Service Grant Application – Fuel Reduction Project Locations



RS-22-107
M 22-123
OR 22-126