


**SUBJECT:** INFORMING THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY OF THE INTENT OF ADMINISTRATION TO SIGN AN AMENDMENT TO THE STATE FORESTRY GRANT TO EXTEND THE TIME FOR THE BOROUGH CREW OF SAWYERS TO CONSTRUCT SHADED FUEL BREAKS ON BOROUGH-OWNED LAND.

**AGENDA OF:** June 3, 2025

**ASSEMBLY ACTION:** Approved under the consent agenda 06/03/25 - BJH

**AGENDA ACTION REQUESTED:** For information only.

Route To	Signatures
Originator	<div>5 / 1 9 / 2 0 2 5</div> <div>X      E m e r s o n   K r u e g e r</div> <div>Signed by: Emerson Krueger</div>
Department Director	<div>5 / 1 9 / 2 0 2 5</div> <div>X      J o e   M e t z g e r   f o r   J i l l i a n   M o r r i s</div> <div>Signed by: Joe Metzger</div>
Finance Director	<div> Recoverable Signature</div> <div>X      C h e y e n n e   H e i n d e l</div> <div>Signed by: Cheyenne Heindel</div>
Borough Attorney	<div>5 / 2 0 / 2 0 2 5</div> <div>X      N i c h o l a s   S p i r o p o u l o s</div> <div>Signed by: Nicholas Spiropoulos</div>
Borough Manager	<div>5 / 2 0 / 2 0 2 5</div> <div>X      M i c h a e l   B r o w n</div> <div>Signed by: Mike Brown</div>
Borough Clerk	<div>5 / 2 0 / 2 0 2 5</div> <div>X      L o n n i e   M c K e c h n i e</div> <div>Signed by: Lonnie McKechnie</div>

**ATTACHMENT (S):** Amendment to Memorandum of Agreement (2 pp)

**SUMMARY STATEMENT:** Borough administration intends to sign a grant amendment to extend the State Forestry funding to pay for wages, expenses, and equipment to extend the work season of the Borough Saw Crew. The no-cost amendment will provide an additional year and expire July 1, 2026. The Borough Assembly adopted Ordinance Serial No. 24-032 on February 20, 2024, accepting and appropriating \$400,000 from the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry for the Saw Crew Project. The accompanying grant agreement expires June 30, 2025. The grant amendment would extend the expiration date to June 30, 2026.

The crew was hired in November 2021 and has focused on cutting shaded fuel breaks and felling hazard trees on borough-owned land. The saw crew has also been constructing firebreaks and performing fuel reductions on borough property with dense stands of beetle-kill spruce in residential areas.

Saw crew has prioritized their work on Borough-owned properties with high concentrations of beetle-kill spruce and hazard trees, in close proximity to populated areas, and high levels of public use.

The crew has completed work at the Mat-Su Career and Tech High School, Butte Elementary, and Meadow Lakes Elementary. The crew recently began work at Su Valley High School. The crew has also been conducting fuel reduction work at Alcantra Sports Complex, Crevasse Moraine Trail System, Matanuska River Park, Jim Creek Recreation Area and Lazy Mountain Recreation Area.

As project employees, the saw crew will continue to work until the project funding has been expended.

**AMMENDENT TO:**  
**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**  
**BETWEEN**  
**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, Division of Forestry & Fire Protection**  
**AND**  
**THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH**  
**TO SUPPORT THE CRITICAL FACILITIES PROTECTION: SAW CREW PROJECT**

**Amendment One**

Amendment One serves to refine term ending dates and final reporting requirements, due to contract finalization time frames. This amendment changes the final term from July 1, 2025, to July 1 2026. Final reporting and invoicing will be required by July 1, 2026.

Amendment One also updates billing process contacts.

All payment requests will be sent via email to [dof.fire.accounting@alaska.gov](mailto:dof.fire.accounting@alaska.gov)

Additionally, include the following contacts for all payment requests:

Ethan DeBauche, Coastal Region Fuels Specialist,  
State of Alaska, Division of Forestry & Fire Protection,  
[ethan.debauche@alaska.gov](mailto:ethan.debauche@alaska.gov)

Madelyn Lowe, Procurement Specialist 3,  
State of Alaska, Division of Forestry & Fire Protection, [madelyn.lowe@alaska.gov](mailto:madelyn.lowe@alaska.gov)

AMMENDMENT TO:

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, Division of Forestry & Fire Protection

AND

THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

TO SUPPORT THE CRITICAL FACILITIES PROTECTION: SAW CREW PROJECT

*Ethan DeBanche*

Printed Name/Date

**Coastal Region Fuels Specialist**, Division of Forestry & Fire Protection, Point of Contact

*[Signature]* 5/15/25

Signature/Date

Printed Name/Date

**Natural Resource Manager**, Matanuska-Susitna Borough, Point of Contact

Signature/Date

Printed Name/Date

**Borough Manager**, Matanuska-Susitna Borough, Signatory

Signature/Date

Printed Name/Date

**Deputy Director**, Division of Forestry & Fire Protection, Signatory

Signature/Date

Printed Name/Date

**Procurement Specialist III**, Division of Forestry & Fire Protection, Signatory

Signature/Date