

Adopted: 12/15/20

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH  
RESOLUTION SERIAL NO. 20-121**

A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY AMENDING THE LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DIVISION POLICY AND PROCEDURES MANUAL.

---

WHEREAS, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was presented with IM Serial No. 20-211 informing them of Borough Administrations intent to update the Land and Resource Management Division Policy and Procedures Manual to allow neighboring private property owners to cut trees on abutting vacant borough-owned land to increase public safety; and

WHEREAS, similar policies were successfully implemented in the Kenai Peninsula Borough after the Swan Lake fire in 2019; and

WHEREAS, this current Resolution shall supersede all prior Matanuska-Susitna Borough legislation with regard to the adopted Land and Resource Management Division Policy and Procedures Manual, be it by Ordinance, Resolution, or otherwise, until superseded by a future Assembly Resolution; and

WHEREAS, the updated Policy and Procedures Manual includes a new provision for private property owners to thin trees on abutting, vacant borough-owned land within 100 feet of structures to reduce the fire hazard; and

WHEREAS, the updated Policy and Procedures Manual includes a new provision for private property owners to cut down hazard trees

on abutting, vacant borough-owned land that may fall and damage private property; and

WHEREAS, all trees cut down in accordance with these new provisions must be used for non-commercial purposes and may not be sold or bartered. Spruce trees must be removed from the forest to minimize fire danger and bark beetle propagation, and may be used as firewood, and may not be left in or along existing trails; and

WHEREAS, these new provisions are being incorporated into the Generally Allowed Uses on Borough Land as an open pathway for private property owners to address their individual concerns without requiring specific borough authorization; and

WHEREAS, these new provisions are supported by the 2008 Borough Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly hereby amends and adopts the Land and Resource Management Division Policy and Procedures Manual, Part 31 as written and provided for in the accompanying addendum.

ADOPTED by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly this 15 day  
of December, 2020.

  
VERN HALTER, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:

  
for LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

(SEAL)



PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: Hale, Nowers, McKee, Yundt, Tew, Sumner, and  
Boeve