



MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

Office of the Borough Manager

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 10, 2024
TO: Mayor and Assembly
FROM: Michael Brown, Borough Manager
RE: Manager's Weekly Post

Matanuska Valley Moose Range and Jonesville Public Use Area Management Plan: On July 2, 2024, The Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Commissioner of the Department of Fish and Game adopted the Matanuska Valley Moose Range and Jonesville Public Use Area Management Plan. This is a significant step towards improving the public safety and recreational opportunities in the Jonesville and the Moose Range areas. State adoption of this plan is a major accomplishment, but the work is far from over. Things will remain the status quo without implementing the recommendations throughout the plan and consistently enforcing illegal activities.

The Borough remains committed to seeing lasting and meaningful change in the Moose Range and, specifically, the Jonesville area. Community Development staff have been working closely with DNR to ensure the Borough's concerns are being adequately addressed. In fact, the Borough anticipates executing a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with DNR in the upcoming weeks. The purpose of the MOA is to allow the Borough to conduct due diligence and a feasibility study for a shooting range in the Jonesville area. The Borough envisions beginning the feasibility study shortly after the MOA is executed and will work closely with DNR to find a suitable location to develop a public shooting range in the Jonesville area.

Montana Creek Fire Update: Fire was reported to MatCom on June 29, 2024, at about 1500 hrs off Dogsled Trail Rd near Montana Creek. This area borders but is outside of an MSB Fire Service Area. Alaska Department of Forestry (DOF) was dispatched. The initial size up was roughly ¼ acre, active fire, near but not immediately threatening a residence, and the fire appeared to have involved at least one vehicle. MSB was requested to assist and send some initial attack resources to aid Forestry. Units from Talkeetna and Willow-Caswell responded to assist.

Providing Outstanding Borough Services to the Matanuska-Susitna Community

Wind conditions picked up, and fire began extending in black spruce and rapidly mixing hardwoods. The fire grew over several hours to 30 acres and an estimated 70-100 acres by the mid-evening. For a period of time, this was the number one priority fire in the State, and air resources were diverted from other areas to assist. Smoke Jumpers, helicopters, water scoopers, and air tankers were all used to slow down the fire and protect residences.

DOF requested MSB apparatus and personnel to assist with structural protection. West Lakes, Houston, Central, and Palmer units were assembled and responded. On Monday, DOF had a Type III Incident Management Team from Wyoming take over managing the fire.

MSB has had apparatus and crews assisting each day since the start of the fire. These have typically been several water tenders, brush trucks, and personnel. One of our mobile repeaters/comm towers is also supporting the fire.

The total acres involved are approximately 159, and the fire is not expected to grow. A fire line surrounds the perimeter, and crews are working to mop up internal hotspots. At one point, roughly 106 personnel were assigned to the fire. One outbuilding was lost, and no residences.

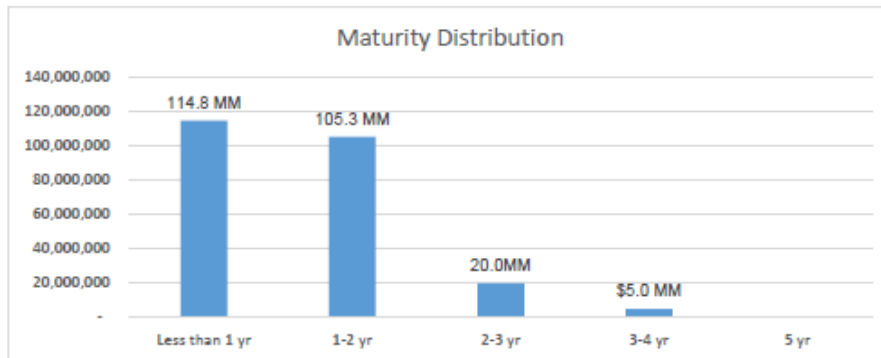
Early in the fire, the area threatened was put to a “set” status for possible evacuations (Leroy Davies Rd and Montana Creek road corridor), which has since been lifted. After the Saturday shift, The Type III IM Team released MSB assets (except the repeater). Cool and wet conditions are assisting progress. The Type III team is expected to remain in place until there is 100% containment and thorough overhaul unless they are called to a higher-priority incident.

The cause is currently listed as a human-caused fire. The structure fire that resulted in a fatality is under investigation by the State Fire Marshal and AST. It is not believed to have been caused by the wildfire.

Glenn Highway MP 63.5 Erosion Update: Alaska DOT&PF successfully stabilized the entire area (~1500’ long x ~30’ wide) near MP 63.5 of the Glenn Hwy. Their contractor imported approximately 18,000 cubic yards of shot rock from the nearby State of Alaska Callison Pit. The Department is currently assessing the quality of the imported rock for long-term application. This assessment will likely necessitate importing an additional 4,000 to 6,000 cubic yards of Class III/IV rip rap. Hauling and placing this additional rip rap would take up to 6 weeks. Traffic should expect minor lane restrictions during that period.

Investments Summary from 04/10/2024-06/30/2024:

- Total return for the last quarter was 0.13% with interest received of \$889,187.
- Average market value for our portfolio was \$236,555,792.
- 40% of the portfolio consists of Callable Bonds.



Public Affairs Media Flyover:

Roads

- Glenn Hwy bridge overhauls delayed until 2025
Mat-Su Sentinel
- Major overhaul Knik River bridges set 2025 (video)
Alaska News Source

Mat-Su Business

- Albertsons lists 18 Alaska Carrs Safeway stores planned divestiture (video)
Alaska News Source
- Grocers release list of Alaska Carrs Safeway stores targeted for divestiture
ADN

Emergency Response

- Carbon Monoxide poisoning in Wasilla
ADN
- 79-year-old dies after being hit by motorcycle
Alaska News Source