



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

MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 22, 2023
TO: Mayor and Assembly
FROM: Michael Brown, Borough Manager
RE: Manager's Weekly Post

Jonesville Public Use Area Update: Borough staff met with Department of Natural Resources staff on November 21, 2023 to discuss a way ahead for the Moose Range Plan and Jonesville Public Use Area. DNR is aiming for plan adoption in the summer of 2024, with an additional year to develop regulations that support the plan. DNR expects regulation development to occur in phases. MSB requested a right of entry or letter of intent regarding a management agreement to allow Borough staff to pursue Federal grants to support developing and constructing a shooting range at Jonesville. This would allow DNR's efforts to occur concurrently with the Borough's efforts to acquire additional funding to support a shooting range and amenities. We will schedule to meet again in mid-January to update on progress.

Hazardous Fuels Reduction (Wildfire Mitigation): The State of Alaska, Division of Forestry & Fire Protection manages a year-round hazardous fuel reduction program. Fuels reduction work aims to bolster community resilience to fire by removing enough vegetation (or fuel) in strategically placed areas so that when a wildfire burns, it is less severe and can be more easily managed.

One of the more striking projects, the Sunset Fuel Break, is 6.2 miles long by 200 feet wide and strategically designed to protect the communities of north Wasilla, Big Lake, Meadow Lakes, and Houston.

Forestry released the following video that describes their efforts and discusses a shaded fuel break, which was discussed during one of our timber sales staff reports several months ago: <https://akfireinfo.com/2023/11/20/winter-work-continues-on-state-of-alaska-hazardous-fuel-reduction-projects/>.

Private Homeowner Snow Encroachments into Public Rights-of-Way: As of November 21, 2023, a total of 156 complaints have been received, and letters have been or are being mailed as part of the education and enforcement process.

Public Affairs Media Flyover:

Community

- 500 Mat-Su families receive free Thanksgiving meal box
Alaska’s News Source

Waste Management

- Borough receives \$3.5 million dollar grant to improve composting program
Frontiersman

Junk and Trash

- Junk Car Removal Program a success
KTNA

State Legislative Priorities

- West Susitna Access priority for Assembly
KTNA

Planning

- Comprehensive Planning – Su Valley Voice
KTNA

Weather

- Mat-Su schools closed Tuesday after blizzard hits power lines, highways
Alaska Public Media
- Blizzard hits the Mat-Su, causing widespread power outages, closures
Frontiersman

Books

- ACLU, parents, and students sue Alaska School District over book bans
Publishers Weekly
- Lawsuit contends Mat-Su book removals violate student civil rights
ADN

MSBSD

- School district updates school closures and delays process
Frontiersman

Fisheries

- Dipnetting Participation was about average in 2023
Peninsulaclarion

Facebook Posts

- Turkey Dinner Donations photos
Reach: 9,398 / Reactions: 162 positive, 0 negative / Shares: 17
- Blizzard Warning
Reach: 19,920/ Reactions: 395 positive, 0 negative / Shares: 169

Future Events: Comprehensive Plan Workshops - <https://compplanupdate.matsugov.us/>

Monday, November 27, 2023	Teeland Middle School Library	6 p.m. to 8 p.m.	Fishhook, City of Wasilla, North and South Lakes, Tanaina
Tuesday, November 28, 2023	Glacier View School	6 p.m. to 8 p.m.	Chickaloon, Glacier View, Eureka, Louise/Susitna/Tyone
Wednesday, November 29, 2023	Houston Middle School	6 p.m. to 8 p.m.	Willow, City of Houston, Big Lake, Meadow Lakes
TBD	Su-Valley High School Library	6 p.m. to 8 p.m.	Petersville, Trapper Creek, Talkeetna, Caswell Lakes, Chase, Susitna, Willow