

Native Village of Tanacross Undertakes Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project

After a fire ran through the dense stands of black spruce near the Native Village of Tanacross a few years ago, it was determined a need existed for village protection from wildland fire. Tanacross, located near Delta Junction on Alaska’s Highway 2, has begun a hazardous fuels reduction project to mitigate the threat posed by wildland fire.



HFR Project near the Native Village of Tanacross

This wildland urban interface project, coupled with the protection offered by the nearby Tanana River, is designed to create a number of fuel breaks to shield the village from wildland fire from any direction. Aside from the obvious benefits of these hazardous fuels reduction treatments, it became evident that there were other advantages to this project.

In a village and region with very high rates of unemployment, this fuels reduction project provided a steady source of income for a number of local villagers. In addition, it provided felling experience and job skills for future contracting. And in an area with average winter temperatures of -25°, the extra firewood was a valuable commodity available to any villagers willing to haul it home.