

# National Fire Plan

## Spruce Thinning Project Planned to Protect Tanacross From Wildfire



### *Tanacross, Alaska*



The Tanacross Fire Safety Project will treat more than 50 acres of forested land to protect residents from wildfire

Workers in Tanacross are thinning spruce stands around the village that pose a threat of wildfire.

The work began July 30 in the village located off the Alaska Highway 190 miles southeast of Fairbanks. A public meeting was held July 21 at the Tanacross Community Hall, where village leaders and members of federal and state wildland fire suppression agencies discussed the project.

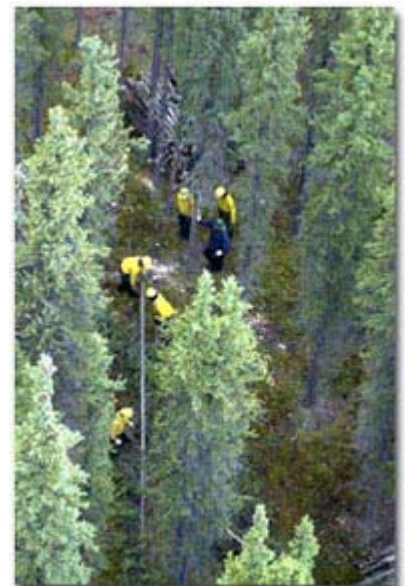
Fred Hernandez, a Smokejumper with the BLM Alaska Fire Service (AFS), said the project is a cooperative effort by AFS, the Village of Tanacross, the Tanana Chiefs Conference, Alaska Division of Forestry, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.



A two day course was held before

"The idea for the hazard fuels project came from the village. They contacted the Tanana Chiefs Conference, and TCC arranged for the project with AFS," he said.

The Tanacross work involves about 52 acres of forested land, Hernandez said. A 16-member crew was hired by the village and trained by AFS personnel during a two-day course emphasizing safe chainsaw operations. The crew will work for 8 to 10 weeks this summer and complete the project next summer.



The village crew thinned stands of

the  
thinning project began emphasizing  
safe chainsaw operations

Hernandez said black and white  
spruce stands will be thinned to a  
minimum spacing of ten feet. The  
lower branches of remaining spruce  
trees will be pruned to eliminate  
ladder fuels. All live hardwoods  
will be left uncut. The project will  
leave a defensible space for fire  
suppression forces to protect the  
village if a wildfire occurs.

white  
spruce trees surrounding the  
community

Funding was provided through the national  
Communities at Risk Program. It makes funds  
available to assist villages and communities in  
hazard fuel reduction and preparedness projects.

Planning is underway for similar projects in  
Northway and Nulato. The Alaska Fire Service  
has completed smaller fuels reduction projects in  
three areas on Fort Wainwright where spruce  
stands posed a risk to adjacent communities.



Dense stands of white spruce pose the threat of  
wildfire to the community of Tanacross

For additional information on the National Fire Plan, visit [www.fireplan.gov](http://www.fireplan.gov)