

# Kenai Peninsula Borough

## Office of Emergency Management

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### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Brent Johnson, Assembly President  
Members, Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly

**THRU:** Mike Navarre, Mayor *MN*  
Brandi Harbaugh, Finance Director *BH*  
Roy Browning, CES Fire Chief *RB*  
Trent Burnett, NFSA Fire Chief *TB*

**FROM:** Brenda Ahlberg, Emergency Manager *BA*

**DATE:** January 26, 2023

**RE:** Resolution 2023-011, Authorizing Participation with the Wildfire Research Center to Conduct Wildfire Risk Assessments in the Communities of Cooper Landing, Funny River and Nikiski (Mayor)

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The Wildfire Research Center (WiRē Center) approached the Office of Emergency Management to conduct wildfire risk assessments, develop data sets and to submit findings for the purpose of enhancing decisions regarding fire-adapted community strategies on the Kenai Peninsula.

The mission of the WiRē Center is to support evidence-based community wildfire education efforts so that communities can live with wildfire, which is aligned with identified strategies in the Borough's 2022 Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

In collaboration with the WiRē personnel, the Borough selected the communities of Cooper Landing, Funny River and Nikiski as the initial areas to evaluate. Using assessing and GIS data, the WiRē Center will provide personalized expertise and support to collect and interpret wildfire risk and social data. The WiRē Center will also provide training for area volunteers to conduct the parcel-level risk assessments with participating homeowners.

The Office of Emergency Management will serve as liaison to these communities and the respective fire chiefs. Project information has been introduced at area planning commission meetings and service area meetings in each of these communities to gain input and initial support for this project.

Your consideration is appreciated.

Attachment: WiRē Agreement of Collaboration