

Introduced by: Mayor, Cooper, Blakeley, Carpenter
Date: 10/22/19
Action: Adopted as Amended
Vote: 9 Yes, 0 No, 0 Absent

**KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH
RESOLUTION 2019-054**

**A RESOLUTION REQUESTING PUBLIC LAND MANAGERS TO TAKE
REASONABLE ACTIONS TO PREVENT, LIMIT AND MITIGATE WILDFIRES AND
THEIR IMPACTS ON THE KENAI PENINSULA**

WHEREAS, for several weeks during the summer of 2019 many residents of the Kenai Peninsula Borough were negatively impacted by smoke from the Swan Lake wildfire; and

WHEREAS, smoke and flames from this wildfire caused multiple closures of the Sterling Highway, the borough's single highway providing access to the central and eastern areas of the Kenai Peninsula resulting in tremendous traffic stoppages which created serious health and safety risks; and

WHEREAS, smoke and flames from the wildfire negatively impacted numerous businesses and organizations, caused the cancellation of tourist trips, community events and meetings, and the elderly and those with pulmonary conditions to stay indoors; and

WHEREAS, Cooper Landing and Sterling residents were notified of potential evacuations during high fire activity; and

WHEREAS, borough residents and businesses value our pristine natural environment and make a concerted effort to preserve and protect it and the wildlife; and

WHEREAS, the assembly recognizes the value of preserving wildlands in pristine condition, while acknowledging that the health and welfare of borough residents and visitors is a higher priority;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI
PENINSULA BOROUGH:**

SECTION 1. The assembly requests that the managers of our public wildlands take reasonable actions to prevent, limit and mitigate wildfires that have significant negative health impacts on our community.

SECTION 2. The assembly requests that the managers of our public wildlands consider not allowing some fires to burn themselves out if the smoke could cause significant health, transportation and transmission network impacts.

SECTION 3. That those efforts include, but not be limited to:

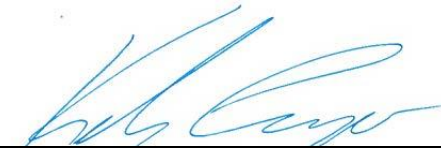
- Forest fuel reduction, including removal of potentially dangerous fire fuels;
- The establishment of appropriate roads and trails to allow for adequate access for firefighters and their equipment;
- Serious consideration of the retention in Alaska of firefighting staff and equipment, particularly aircraft assets (considering the apparent increase in ambient temperatures and lower rainfall in recent years) and assurances that all relevant dispatch functions are adequately staffed and trained in wildfire response protocols; and
- Creation of opportunities for the public to assist in these efforts.

SECTION 4. That a copy of this resolution shall be sent to

Alaska State Troopers;
 State of Alaska Emergency Management;
 The Alaska Regional Office of the National Park Service;
 The Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry;
 Those responsible for the management of Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority lands;
 The Bureau of Land Management, Anchorage District Office;
 Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – U.S. Department of Interior;
 Chugach National Forest, U.S. Forest Service – U.S. Department of Agriculture;
 Those responsible for management of Alaska Native Regional Corporation lands;
 Alaska’s Congressional Delegation;
 The members of the Alaska State Legislature; and
 Governor Michael Dunleavy


SECTION 5. That this resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH THIS 22ND DAY OCTOBER, 2019.

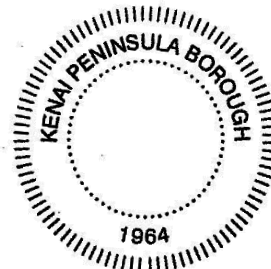


 Kelly Cooper, Assembly President

ATTEST:



 Johni Blankenship, MMC, Borough Clerk



Yes: Bjorkman, Blakeley, Carpenter, Cox, Dunne, Hibbert, Johnson, Smalley, Cooper
No: None
Absent: None