



# Wildfire Risk & Mitigation Public Work Session

Anchorage Fire Department

Anchorage Assembly

January 16, 2025



# *To Serve Our Community Before, During and After an Emergency*



- Before a Wildfire:
  - Community events with DOF & BLM
  - Ready, Set, Go & Firewise programs
  - We need support & funding to address preparedness
- During a Wildfire:
  - DOF has suppression jurisdiction
  - AFD can address wildfires within road-accessible areas
  - Fires >15 acres have been off the road system (reliance on DOF)
  - AFD has been without an official wildfire division for 12 years due to lack of funding

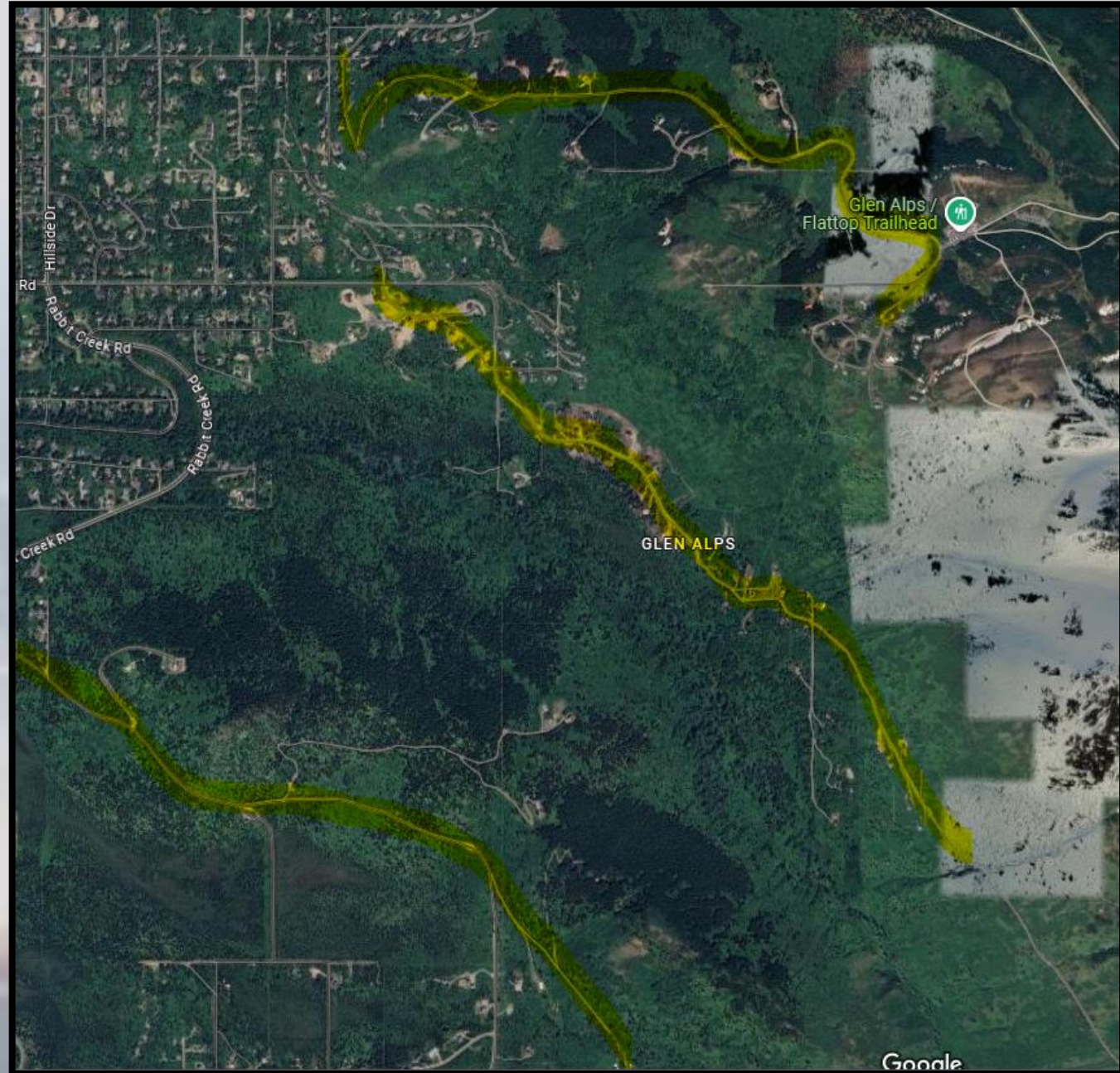


# Single Egress Routes

The following are a few of the more densely-populated neighborhoods with only one means of evacuation/emergency services access

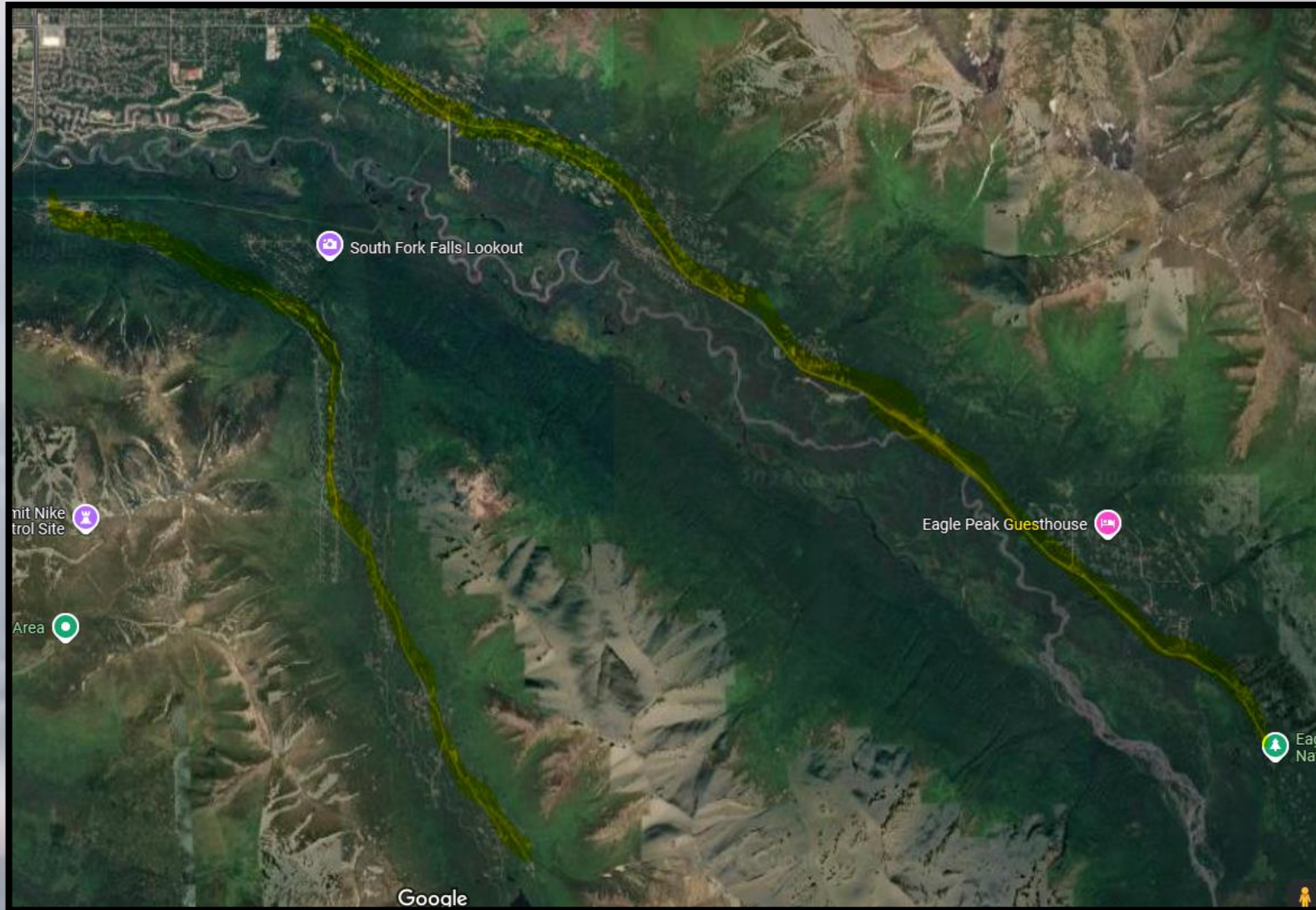


# Glen Alps, Upper Canyon, & Clarks Roads



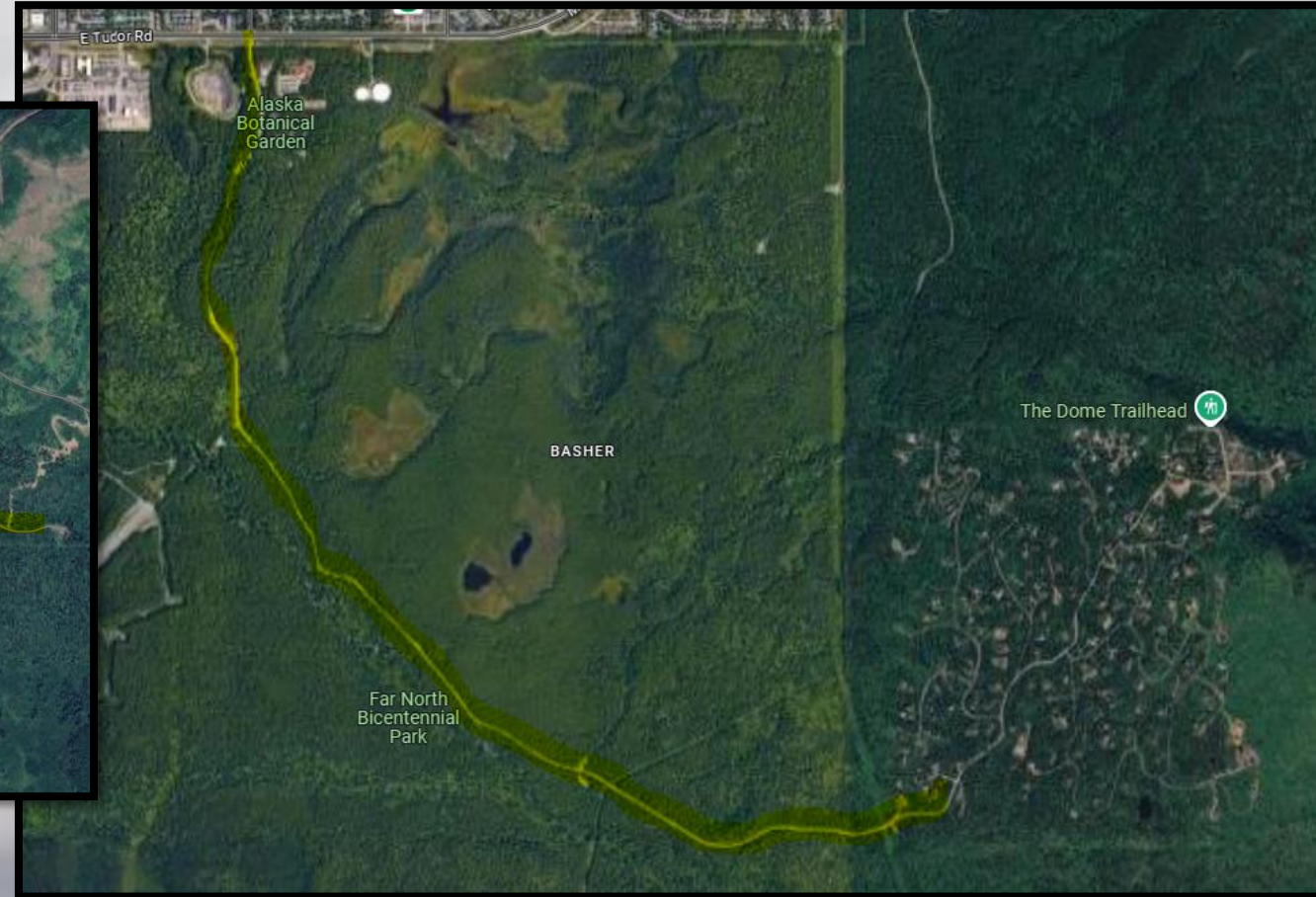
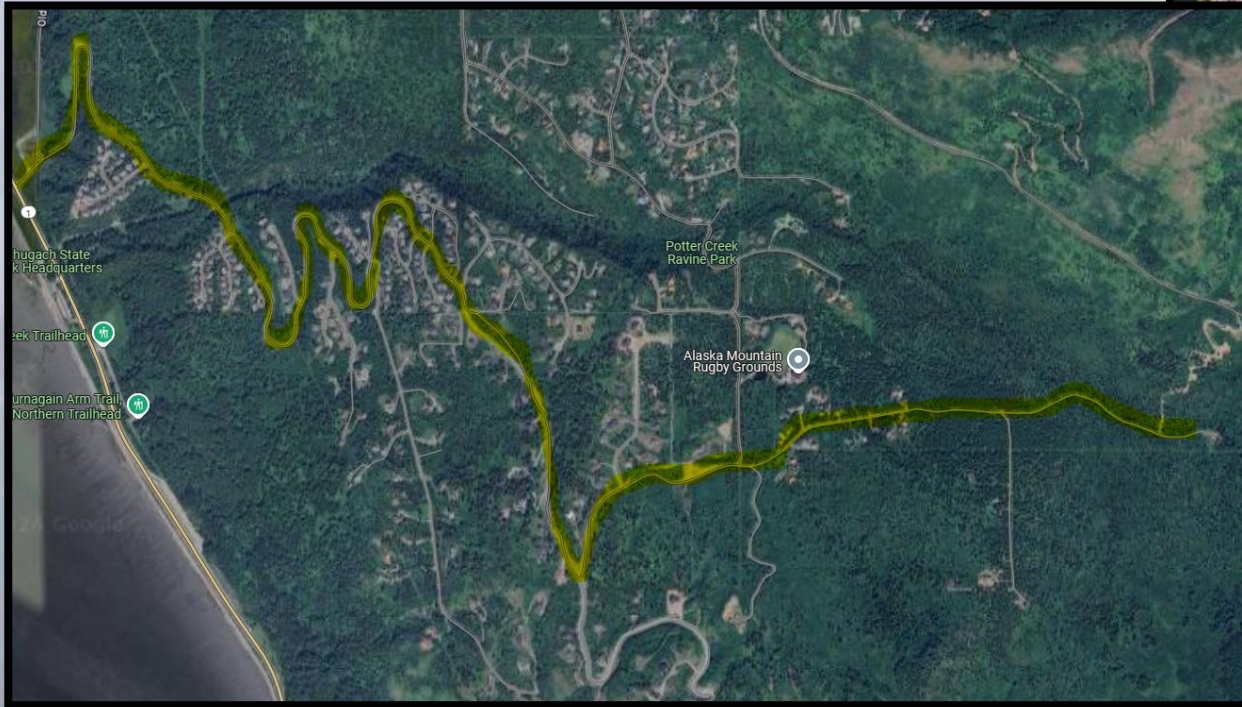


# Eagle River & Hiland Roads





# Potter Valley & Stuckagain





# Fuels Treatments



- Several fuels break plans drafted
  - Strategically placed to address the largest threat to the community
- Most are pending grant funding
  - Good Neighbor Authority (BLM)
  - Community Wildfire Defense Grant (USDA)
  - Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (DOD)





**Campbell Airstrip Rd**





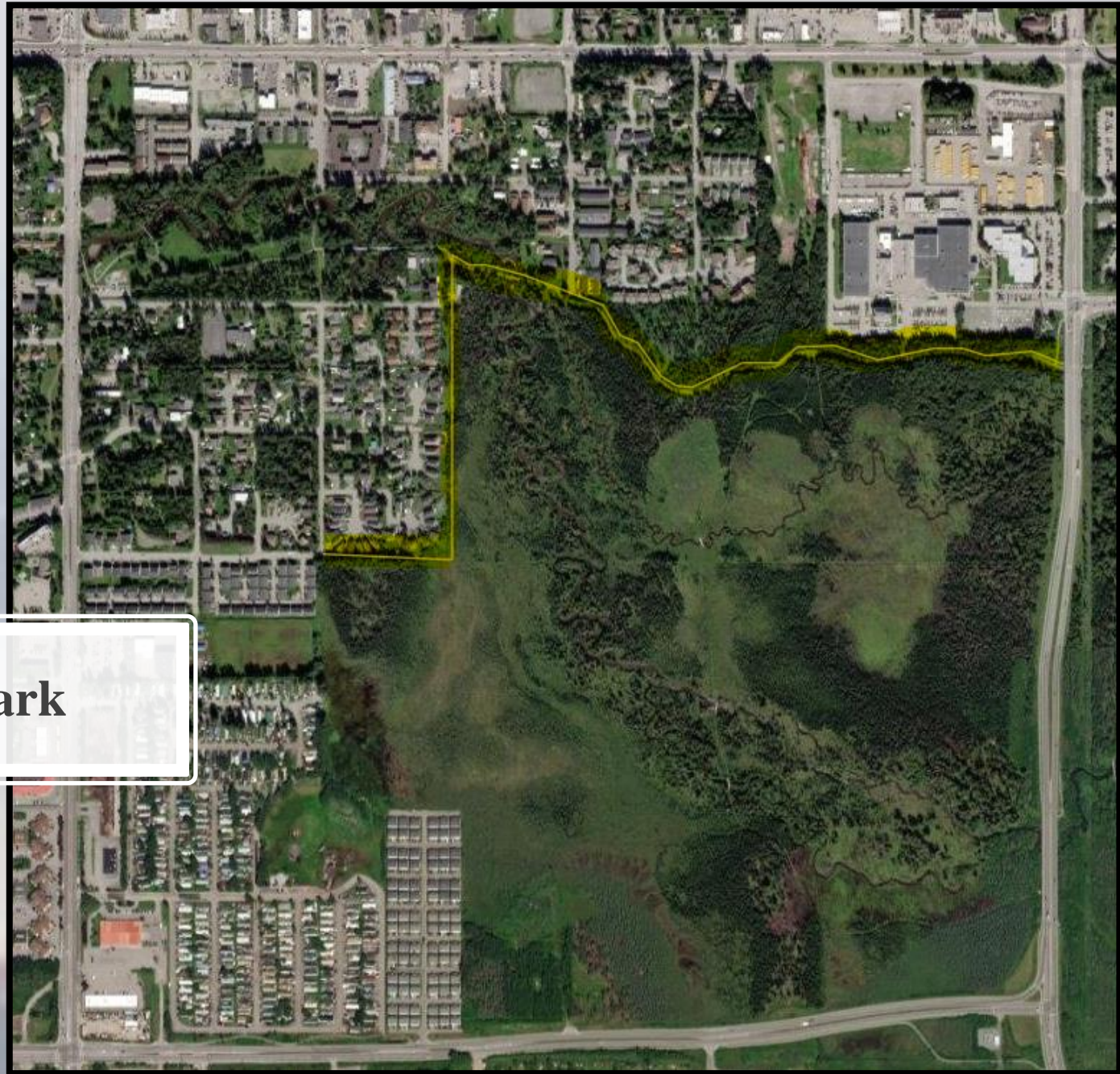
*Partnership with Hillside  
Home and Landowners  
Organization*

**Arcand Park ♦ Forsythe Park  
Clarks Rd**





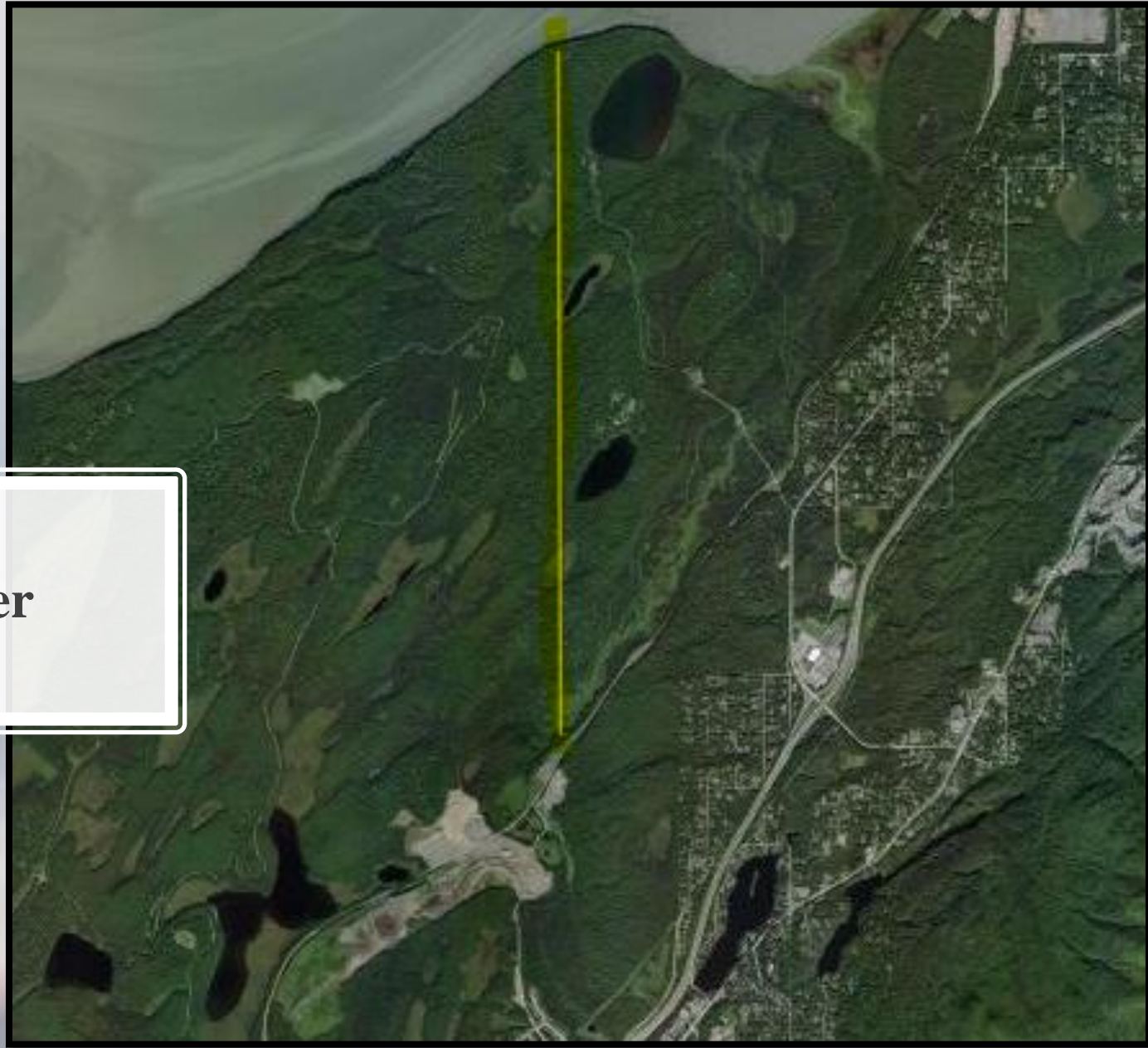
**SE Campbell Tract to  
NE Hillside**



**Campbell Park**



**Eagle River & Hiland  
TBD due to Land  
Ownership**






**JBER Border**



# Hydrant Coverage



	Served by Water and Wastewater Services
	Served by Wastewater Services Only
	Served by Water Services Only



# Operational Solution



## Wildfire Prevention

- Fuels breaks
- FireWise & Property owner mitigation efforts
- Property owner burning guidelines
- Community Outreach
- Coordination with OEM - HIRA

## Rapid Detection & Response

- FireSpy in trial phase
- Brush apparatus patrols on high fire danger days
- Strategic placement of apparatus -> rapid response
- Immediate notification of DOF for air attack/additional suppression capabilities

## Preservation of Life over Property

- Employ Ready, Set, Go
- Coordinate with APD, DOF, OEM to provide evacuations & ensure safe evacuation of residents



# CWPP Update

## Last Updated in 2008



- Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) update estimated completion: Q1 2026
  - Contractor hired in September 2024
  - 2 project team meetings & multitude of small group meetings
  - Community council discussions; establishing strategy for further community engagement
  - Web page for community to sign up for updates/learn more about the project: [wildfire.muni.org](http://wildfire.muni.org) click on CWPP Update







# Positions & Funding



## Positions

- Division Chief
  - Jon started 10/06/24
  - Strategic & extensive experience
- WUI Project Manager
  - CWPP Updates, Community Outreach Initiatives, Grant Solicitation
  - Need for permanent PCN
- Fire Specialist
  - Funded by USFS grant
  - Request October 2024
  - Pending HR approval

## Funding

- Expended: ARPA Funding (\$1M)
- Active: USFS Grant (\$4M)
- Applied: Assistance to Firefighters (\$1M)
- Applying: Community Wildfire Defense Grant (\$1.5M) & Good Neighbor Authority (\$400K)
- Wildfire Division currently hinges on grant funding



# Community Outreach



- Attended more than 10 community council meetings in Q4 of 2024
- Q1 2025: 8 community council meetings scheduled, more pending
- 2025 Plan:
  - 8 community council meeting requests for Q1; AFD soliciting opportunities to attend more
  - Establishing strategy to engage with WUI community councils frequently throughout the year
  - CWPP Education and Public Comment
  - Single egress messaging
  - Continue to promote Ready, Set, Go and Firewise programs



# Firefighter Training



- AFD Annual Refresher Training slated for March 28<sup>th</sup> - April 13<sup>th</sup>
- Establish wildfire special team
- \$1M Assistance to Firefighters Grant Application Submitted
  - Award announcement in late April
  - 6 courses to 20% of AFD crews in 2025 & 2026
  - Funding for advanced wildfire training
- Planned collaboration with BLM, JBER



# Sustainability



- Wildfire Division currently relies on grant funding (expires in 2027)
- USDA forecast: Alaska will see 169% increase in area burned by wildfires over the next 25 years
- Fuels treatments require monitoring and re-treatment
- CWPP to be completed in Q1 of 2026; recommendations will extend beyond 2035
- Efforts planned for 2025 and 2026 do not address all MOA needs, but we have a strategic plan



# Q&A