

# ANCHORAGE CWPP PROJECT TEAM

## MEETING # 2

JANUARY 14, 2025

### 32 ATTENDEES

Anchorage Fire Department  
Alaska Venture Fund  
Alaska Division of Forestry  
MOA GIS  
Chugiak Volunteer & Fire Rescue  
Chugach Electric  
University of Alaska  
MOA Parks & Recreation

JBER  
US Fish & Wildlife  
Alaska Water and Wastewater Utility  
Girdwood Fire & Rescue  
Office of Emergency Management  
Native Village of Eklutna  
Bureau of Land Management  
Bintel, Inc.

### AFD WILDFIRE DIVISION CHIEF JON GLOVER

The LA tragedies are a good reminder as to why we are doing what we are doing. Thank you everyone for your continued support and participation in this project.

### BINTEL PRESENTATION (TOM MARSH, CEO)

The first few months are focused on data collection. This meeting is less about deliverables and more about a status report as we continue to work through all the information we have received so far.

Introduction of Marc McDonald as part of the Bintel team: he has been writing CWPPs for 20 years, has written 120 CWPPs and is a fire cooperater in Colorado.

### ANCHORAGE CWPP TERMINOLOGY:

**Potential Operational Delineations (PODs):** Groupings based on Community Council boundaries

**Suppression Planning Units (SPUs):** within PODS, established by residential density, building structure type, distance between structures, fuels, etc. that would make the fire behave differently. Groupings of residences within the WUI for which hazard ratings will be associated.

**Areas of Special Interest (ASIs):** non-residential areas that are of interest. Examples: JBER, Campbell Creek greenbelt & Chester Creek greenbelt

**PROJECT UPDATE:** a broad overview of project tasks

High Level status update, as this project spans for more than a year

- We have been collecting data, building maps, and creating infrastructure/framework for the CWPP
- We have interacted with UAA & muni GIS as we worked on creating maps
- The Denali Borough CWPP is complete; this is a sample of what a plan created by Bintel looks like; it is available online: [Link to Denali Borough CWPP](#)

- CWPP Appendices highlights:
  - A. Details on communities and Community Hazard Ratings (Community = SPUs for Anchorage)
  - C. Methodology for scoring risk ratings which help guide prioritization of projects
  - D. Home Ignition Zone Recommendations
  - E. Mitigation recommendations – may be broad or associated with SPUs or ASIs

**Fire History & Assessment Phase:** Bintel will visit Anchorage in June to visit every neighborhood in the WUI; truth the data received over winter

**Fire Behavior Modeling:** will occur May through July

**Home hardening Recommendations:** will be tailored to Alaska conditions

**Draft Feedback:** the entire project team will have the opportunity to view the CWPP draft products and some will be designated as signers (Q4 of 2025)

AFD and Bintel Project managers are tracking and updating the project schedule

Bintel will be meeting with the Fire Chiefs this week and touring some of the area due to spring-like weather/visibility of some fuels that are present in the area

**Completed Tasks:**

Some maps have been drafted. They will be used within the CWPP to demonstrate what/where they're talking about [Link to Bintel's Maps](#)

(Bintel provided on-screen examples of fire modeling and some of the maps created for Anchorage)

Chief Glover: this project has begun highlighting what we have/don't have and what we need. Example: only 50% of the fuels work data is readily accessible. Additionally, a large portion of suppression, fire history, incident acreage data are completely inaccurate. We are finding significant deficiencies in recording data over the last decades.

**Upcoming Tasks:**

Preparing for the June community assessment

AFD and Bintel will work on establishing SPU boundaries

**Q&A**

**Q.** Do you only involve the public at the end of the project?

**A.** AFD is taking over that portion of the project. It's different for each project as to who the public will listen to. AFD response: We will not only discuss the CWPP but also introduce the wildfire division. Plans include sending out surveys; hosting at least one town hall and having Bintel present virtually; continued attendance of community council meetings.

**Q.** Does the CWPP have sections related to response capacity and responder qualifications?

**A.** Yes. Ahead of this meeting, we sent surveys to the fire chiefs to determine what resources and capacity they have. This does not include external agency data, because we wanted to focus on what the local fire departments can handle.

**Q.** Will the data collected go to the national stage, as our info is currently inaccurate per the US government?

- State DOF: we are working with Bintel, and getting Dan Labarre's eyes on the information
- Chief Glover: we will be coordinating with the DOF on this. We are working on getting everything on field maps to help document real time information
- State DOF: we all recognize that there's a massive data gap and DOF is holding ongoing conversations

**Q.** Will field maps [application used by multiple agencies] be department centric or interoperable?

**A.** Chief Glover: we are working on those details with Muni GIS & AFD Data Systems

**Q.** What challenges did you run into while doing the Denali project and are there efforts we can take to help you on the Anchorage project?

**A.** Every project is a learning experience for us. The good thing about Bintel CWPPs is that they become living documents that can be updated as necessary

**Q.** Will you update & manage the CWPP after it has been finalized?

**A.** We charge a fee. Anchorage plans to house and update everything once the project is complete.

**Q.** Regarding fire modeling, what input are you using for vegetation?

**A.** The modeling will be performed by our own NWCG FBAN (National Wildfire Coordinating Group Fire Behavior Analyst) using Canadian modeling. We do not plan to create a custom modeling system. The CWPP is a planning tool and not an operational tool.

**Q.** Is there any intention for POD/SPU data to be used by suppression agencies?

**A.** Chief Glover: While this is a planning tool, the CWPP will also be used as a suppression response tool

**Q.** Another modeling question: are we going to demonstrate both normal summer conditions and drought conditions?

**A.** Chief Glover: from an operational standpoint, we plan to do this. This may not be part of the CWPP  
Bintel: how we look at it is, if all of the conditions are the same, what is a fire going to do to those locations. This is a larger discussion for Rod. The mitigation recommendations will be the same regardless of normal vs drought conditions.

**THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING THIS MEETING AND FOR YOUR COMMITMENT TO ENSURING WE DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE, ACTIONABLE PLAN THAT PROTECTS LIVES, PROPERTY AND OUR NATURAL RESOURCES.**