

**HB**

**395**

HFIN

FILE



# FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA  
2006 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Bill Version: CSHB 395 (FIN)  
( ) Publish Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): \_\_\_\_\_ Dept. Affected: Natural Resources  
Title An Act Extending the Period of the Fire Season RDU Statewide Fire Suppression  
Component Fire Suppression Program  
Sponsor Olson  
Requester HFC Component No. 2705

**Expenditures/Revenues** (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>						
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<b>CHANGE IN REVENUES ( )</b>						
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**FUND SOURCE** (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)						
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

Estimate of any current year (FY2006) cost: 0.0

Check this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2007 budget proposal:

**POSITIONS**

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

**ANALYSIS:** (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Prepared by: House Finance Committee

Phone 465-4945/465 3779

Rep. Kevin Meyer, Co-Chair

Date 3/2/2006

Rep. Mike Chenault, Co-Chair

adopted 3/2/06

24-LS1550F  
Bullock  
3/2/06

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 395( )

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY

Offered:

Referred:

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES OLSON, Hawker, Seaton, Dahlstrom, LeDoux, Gruenberg, Foster

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act extending the period of the fire season; and providing for an effective date."

2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

3 \* Section 1. AS 41.15.050 is amended to read:

4       Sec. 41.15.050. Fire season. The period from April [MAY] 1 to August 31  
5 [SEPTEMBER 30], inclusive, of each year is designated the fire season. The  
6 commissioner may designate other periods as fire season. The commissioner may  
7 proclaim an additional period for all or any portion of the state when weather or other  
8 conditions require action for the protection of forested land. The commissioner may  
9 also, during the fire season, prohibit, or allow only by permit, the setting of fires,  
10 smoking, entry, or other use on the land, when, in the judgment of the commissioner,  
11 the activities would unduly increase the fire danger.

12 \* Sec. 2. This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).

adopted N/O

CONCEPTUAL AMENDMENT 1

OFFERED IN THE HOUSE  
TO: CS HB 395 ( )  
Version 24-LS1550\F

BY REP. KEVIN MEYER

- 1 Page 1, line 1
- 2 After "An Act"
- 3 Delete "extending"
- 4 Insert "relating to"
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# FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA  
2006 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 1  
Bill Version: HB 395  
(H) Publish Date: 2/8/06

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): \_\_\_\_\_ Dept. Affected: Natural Resources  
Title An Act Extending the Period of the Fire Season PDU Statewide Fire Suppression Program  
Component Fire Suppression Preparedness  
Sponsor OLSON, Hawker, Seaton  
Requester (H) RES Component No 2705

**Expenditures/Revenues** (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012
Personal Services	514.5	514.5	514.5	514.5	514.5	514.5
Travel						
Contractual	395.6	395.6	431.5	431.5	431.5	431.5
Supplies	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>922.1</b>	<b>922.1</b>	<b>958.0</b>	<b>958.0</b>	<b>958.0</b>	<b>958.0</b>

<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>						
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<b>CHANGE IN REVENUES ( )</b>						
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**FUND SOURCE** (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF	922.1	922.1	958.0	958.0	958.0	958.0
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)						
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>922.1</b>	<b>922.1</b>	<b>958.0</b>	<b>958.0</b>	<b>958.0</b>	<b>958.0</b>

Estimate of any current year (FY2006) cost: 0.0

Check this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2007 budget proposal:

**POSITIONS**

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

**ANALYSIS:** (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Fires are occurring in greater numbers and with a greater risk to life and property earlier in the year than they have historically. The Tracy Avenue Fire, which started in April 2005 and threatened the community of Homer, was the earliest large, complex fire in the State's history. The Division of Forestry is not currently staffed nor equipped to adequately respond to fires that occur this early. This legislation would change the start of the designated fire season and, if funded, would provide the Division of Forestry with the ability to adequately respond to these early fires threatening communities and the ability to regulate open burning through issuance of burn permits.

Prepared by: Chris Maisch, Director  
Division: Forestry  
Approved by: Michael Mengo, Commissioner  
Agency: Natural Resources

Phone (907) 356-5850  
Date/Time 2/3/2006  
Date 2/3/2006

FISCAL NOTE #1

STATE OF ALASKA  
2006 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB 395

ANALYSIS CONTINUATION

This bill provides for a one month earlier fire season. This will require extensions to permanent seasonal fire staff and extensions to helicopter and air tanker contracts.

Personal Services \$514.5

This provides an extension to permanent seasonal firefighters, prevention staff, and fire support staff which allows for fire response and fire prevention during the earlier fire season.

Contractual Services \$395.6

This provides for contract extensions for helicopters and an air tanker to cover the earlier fire season plus additional normal operating costs (utilities, lease space, phones, etc.) associated with a longer fire season. Higher contractual costs starting in FY 2009 are based on expected changes in the renegotiations to the next 5 year air tanker contract.

Supplies \$12.0

Routine operating supplies associated with a longer fire season.

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

## REPRESENTATIVE KURT OLSON

- Co-Chair, Community and Regional Affairs
- Member, Resources

Session: January – May  
State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182  
Phone: 907-465-2693  
Fax: 907-465-3835



Interim: May – December  
145 Main Street Loop, Ste 221  
Kenai, AK 99611  
Phone: 907-283-2690  
Fax 907-283-2763

Official Business

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### SPONSOR STATEMENT

#### HB 395 FIRE SEASON START DATE

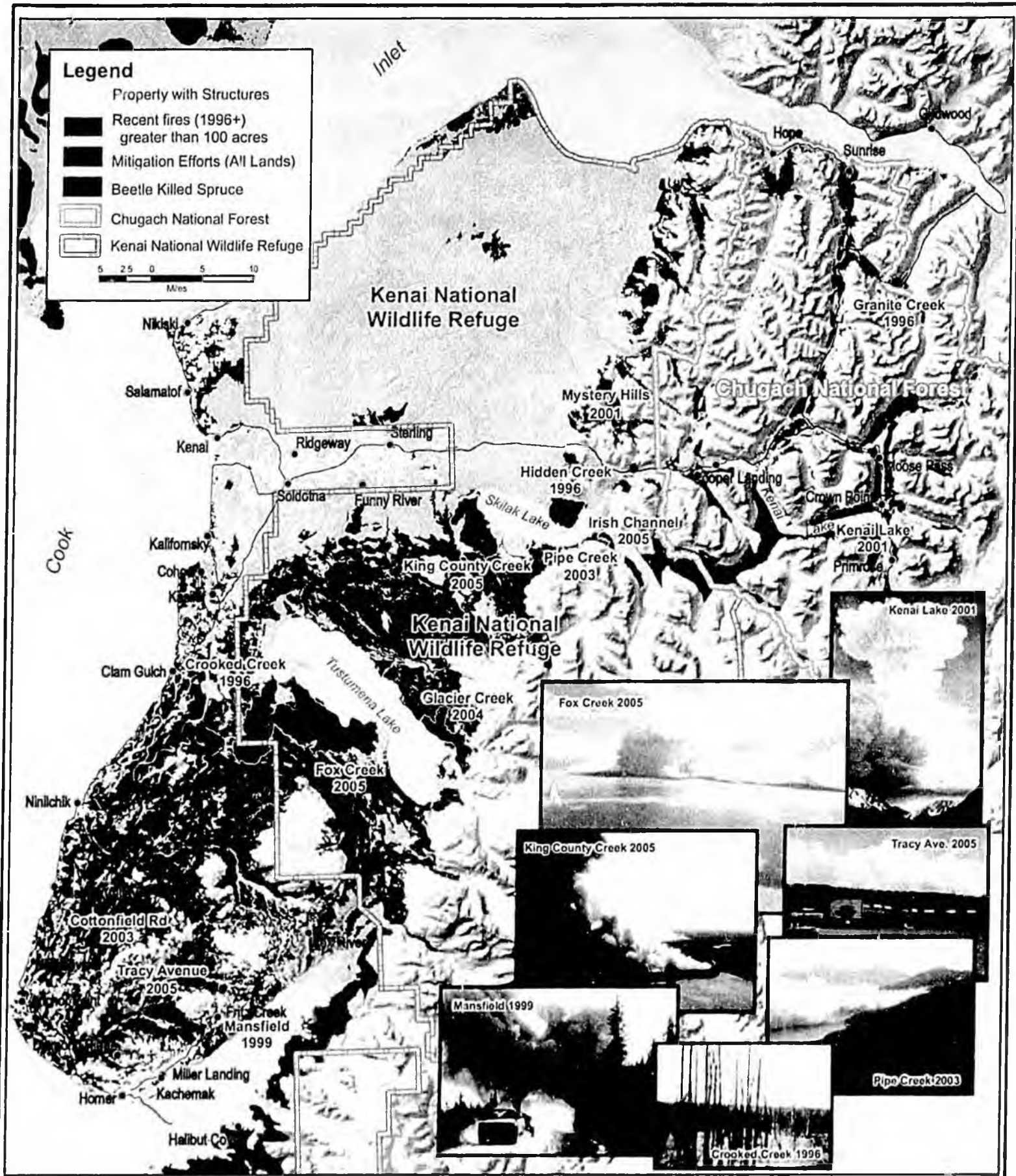
The spruce bark beetle kill on the Kenai Peninsula has created an enormous amount of dry grass and dead trees susceptible to lightning strikes and man made fires and the threat grows greater every year.

For the past several years the climate in our area has been gradually warming earlier in the year leaving wild areas dry and increasing the probability of a major wildfire.

The largest uncontained fire on the Southern Kenai Peninsula ever recorded, the Tracy Avenue fire, started prior to May 1, 2005, threatening residents and property. This fire might have been contained had the equipment and personnel been available the first day.

Moving the fire season start date to April 1 will allow the state to become actively involved in fire prevention and control earlier in the fire season and hopefully stop the progress of a disastrous pre-summer fire.

I respectfully ask for your support of this bill.



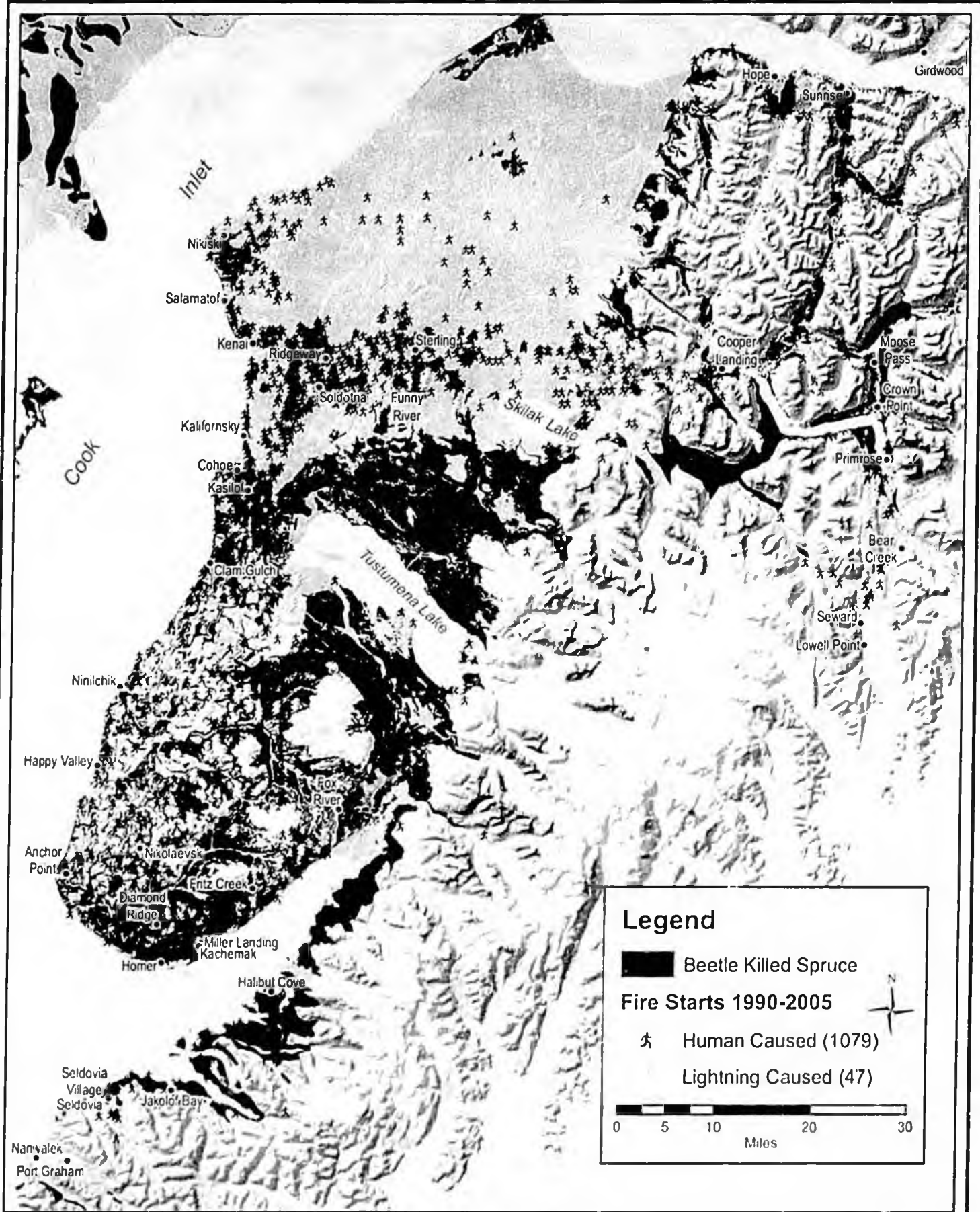
# Major Kenai Peninsula Fires 1996+

Total area greater than 77,000 acres

Kenai Peninsula Borough, Alaska  
 Prepared by the Kenai Peninsula Borough Fire Department  
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 This map is not a warranty, offer of insurance, or any other financial product. It is for informational purposes only and does not constitute an offer of insurance or any other financial product. The map is not to be used as a basis for any insurance policy or any other financial product.

Map created by: Major Tom Magill, 1999-2001  
 By: Brian A. Day and Mark Hulse, 2005  
 Layout by: Susan May (2005)





## Kenai Peninsula Fire Starts

Kenai Peninsula Borough (KPB) Spruce Bark Beetle Mitigation Program (2005)  
 This map is a representation of the data collected and analyzed by the Kenai Peninsula Borough Office of Forestry. The State of Alaska Department of Forestry  
 and Fire Management (ADF&G) is the primary source of the data. The map is for informational purposes only and does not constitute a warranty or  
 representation of any kind. The map is not to be used for any other purpose. The map is the property of the Kenai Peninsula Borough Office of Forestry and  
 Fire Management. All rights reserved. © 2005 KPB Office of Forestry and Fire Management.



August 1, 2005

Introduced by: Martin  
Date: 01/17/06  
Action: Adopted  
Vote: 8 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent

**KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH  
RESOLUTION 2006-008**

**A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE TO AMEND  
ALASKA STATUTE 41.15.050 TO CHANGE THE FIRE SEASON START DATE FROM  
MAY 1 TO APRIL 1 OF EACH YEAR**

**WHEREAS,** the Division of Forestry is the lead agency on the Southern Kenai Peninsula for wildland fire protection; and

**WHEREAS,** recent climate change on the Kenai Peninsula has resulted in warmer weather starting earlier in the year, which has dried out the wildland fuels earlier in the year, increased the length of the wildland fire threat, and raised the mean summer temperatures; and

**WHEREAS,** the spruce bark beetle infestation has left the Southern Kenai Peninsula with a continuous fuel bed of dead spruce and dry grass; and

**WHEREAS,** the population growth into the Southern Kenai Peninsula wildland urban interface is rapidly increasing; and

**WHEREAS,** lightning fires were a common occurrence on the Southern Kenai Peninsula in 2005; and

**WHEREAS,** the largest uncontained wildfire recorded on the Southern Kenai Peninsula, the Tracy Avenue fire, started before May 1, 2005, and threatened hundreds of residents; and

**WHEREAS,** the Tracy Avenue Fire could possibly have been contained the first day had equipment been available in the state; and

**WHEREAS,** the Tracey Avenue fire came at a time of relatively low and benign winds; and

**WHEREAS,** in the spring of 2005, fires were also burning in other areas of the state; and

**WHEREAS,** moving the fire season start date to April 1 will improve the state's ability to be prepared for fires earlier each year, potentially saving the state millions of dollars in firefighting costs;

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

**SECTION 1.** To reflect these changes in natural dynamics the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly requests the Alaska State Legislature to amend AS 41.15.050 to make the fire season effective April 1, rather than May 1, of each year, as well as the fire training season effective the same date.

**SECTION 2.** That copies of this resolution be forwarded to Michael Menge, Commissioner of Department of Natural Resources; Senators Albert Kookesh, Con Bunde, Tom Wagoner, and Gary Stevens; Representatives Mike Hawker, Woodie Salmon, Kurt Olson, Mike Chenault, and Paul Seaton.

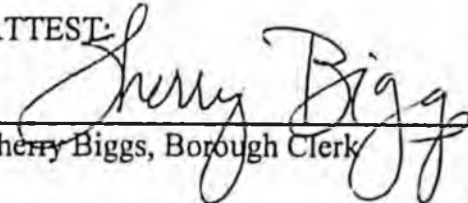
**SECTION 3.** That this resolution takes effect immediately upon its adoption

**ADOPTED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH THIS 17TH DAY OF JANUARY, 2006.**



Ron Long, Assembly President

ATTEST:



Sherry Biggs, Borough Clerk

