

**AUGUST 18, 2021
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
ADDITIONAL MATERIAL/REVISIONS**

REQUESTED ADDITIONS TO THE PACKET:

<u>ACTION</u>	<u>ITEM</u>	<u>REQUESTED BY</u>
Add to item D.8.	Resolution No. 2021-54 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• KPB Memo• KPB Powerpoint Presentation	City Manager
Add to item J.1.	City Manager Report <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kenai Marketing Plan FY2022 Detail	City Manager

MEMORANDUM

TO: Charlie Pierce, Mayor
THRU: Melanie Aeschliman, Planning Director *MA*
FROM: Marcus Mueller, Land Management Officer *MM*
DATE: June 15, 2021
RE: Spruce Bark Beetle brief

The impacts of Spruce Bark Beetle have reached a critical stage in the Kenai Peninsula Borough. Many many property owners are affected and must take action on the very near term to address direct and indirect hazards of standing dead trees. Concerns are high around property damage, wildfire risk, slash handling, mitigation costs, and future forest conditions.

Correspondingly, local agencies are experiencing rapidly growing levels of demand and their own sets of response issues. For example, slash disposal is at an unprecedented rate within the municipal Solid Waste streams leading to sites becoming choked with slash. Budgetary gaps exist where calls for service are outside of normal scopes. At this point several new lines of service are predictable, such as hazard tree removal from rights-of-ways, public lands, and geographically distributed slash management.

While spruce bark beetle mapping has been conducted through Alaska Division of Forestry annual aerial detection surveys which confirms beetle impacts on large sections in the Kenai Peninsula Borough, a more detailed assessment and mapping that is essential for land managers to act upon has yet to be conducted. More particularly there is a high priority need for remote sensing of stand types that can be used with field data to be translated into specific treatment prescriptions or other forestry prioritization and decisions.

Guiding a community through a major forest change takes its own kind of investment. In the 1990's the Kenai Peninsula Borough had many successes working with landowners, utilities, roads, solid waste, industry and a variety of partners to address a major spruce bark beetle event on the southern Kenai Peninsula. Many lessons were learned. Today the landscape situation is very similar, though the location has shifted, and many more private properties are involved, and the timber markets are less certain. Many of the type of responses that were used in the 1990's are relevant today, and the Kenai Peninsula Borough has the advantage of its past experience.

Today it is evident that the spruce bark beetle impacts are severe and far ranging, and actions must be taken to protect our communities and to preserve the health of our forests into the future.

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Date: June 15, 2021

To: Mayor Pierce

RE: Spruce Bark Beetle Brief

The Kenai Peninsula Borough has been actively engaged in sizing up the current beetle kill impacts on KPB lands, KPB operations, as well as on a community-wide level. Borough staff have reviewed information and established a network of contacts relevant to developing operational plans. In mid-april the administration submitted a federal request through our Senators Murkowski and Sullivan, and Representative Young, for \$35million in federal support for an array of measures. The measures include:

- Inventory/ Impact Assessment of Beetle Kill Areas
- Public Information
- Slash Management
- Assistance to Private Property Owners
- Salvage Harvest on KPB Lands
- Technical Treatments in Critical Public Areas
- Road & Utility ROW Hazard Tree Removal
- Innovation, Infrastructure, and Industry Investments
- Wildland Fire Response Capacity
- Reforestation
- Forest Management Planning

In order to prepare for possible funding, or to pursue alternative funding sources, the administration has authorized the use of residual spruce bark beetle funds to immediately bring on three project development positions:

- 1) Operational Planner-Project Coordinator
- 2) Public Engagement & Grants Specialist
- 3) Forester

The Operational Planner-Project Coordinator will be assigned the role of developing shovel ready project planning so that funds can readily be put into action, including the ability to stand up an effective organization for administering program objectives.

The Public Engagement & Grants Specialist will have two parallel roles as the name suggests. Public engagement will take the form of generating means to link property owners with useful informational tools in addressing beetle kill and to keep the public informed of the borough actions, and to host meetings and gather feedback important to informing program direction. The grants element of this position will focus on identifying and securing grants, and providing grant administration necessary to accomplish program objectives.

The Forester will be responsible for developing a forest management plan focused on beetle kill treatment on KPB land. The forester will determine inventory measures and treatment prescriptions and will prepare timber sales, reforestation and other contracts.

The initial term of these positions is estimated to be six months based on available funding with anticipation of extension based on success in receiving grant funds.

WESTERN (SPRUCE BARK) BEETLE MITIGATION-RESPONSE

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH



WELCOME
QUICK INTRODUCTION

MAY 5, 2021
10AM - NOON

Project Advocate Team

- Marcus Mueller, KPB Land Management Officer & GIS Manager 714-2204 mmueller@kpb.us
- Trevor Kauffman, KPB Land Management Agent- Resource Management 714-2211 | trevorkauffman@kpb.us
- Brenda Ahlberg, KPB Community & Fiscal Grants Manager 714-2153 bahlberg@kpb.us

Supported by KPB Mayor Charlie Pierce

SITUATION- SPRUCE BARK BEETLE INFESTATION

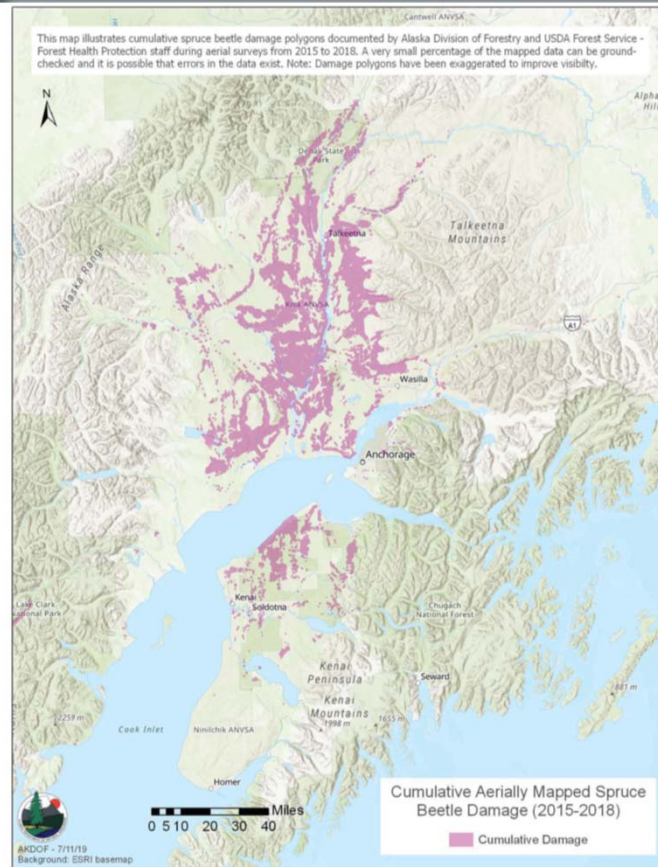
WIDESPREAD MORTALITY OF DOMINANT TREES ON THE FORESTED LANDSCAPE & URBAN CENTERS

Geographic Extent:

Central- North Kenai Peninsula, Matsu

Severity:

Very High Morality,
Spruce Stand Collapse,
Major Forest Disturbance



Impacted Properties:

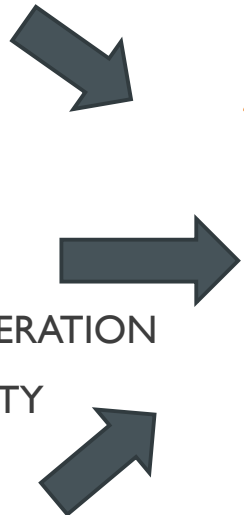
All ownerships-
*Private, Municipal, State,
Native, Refuge/federal*

Most land use types-
*Residential, Schools, Solid
waste, Institutional, Parks,
Public forestlands, Riparian
corridors, Road right-of-ways,
Electric right-of-ways*

PROJECTED HAZARDS

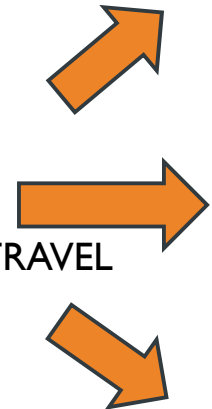
- ❑ FALLING
- ❑ BREAKAGE
- ❑ LEANERS
- ❑ WINDTHROW
- ❑ JACKSTRAW
- ❑ FINE FUEL PROLIFERATION
- ❑ FIRE SUSCEPTIBILITY
- ❑ FUEL LOADING
- ❑ BURN PILE FIRE ESCAPE

HAZARD TYPE



APPLIES TO:

- ❑ STRUCTURES
- ❑ YARDS & PARKS
- ❑ FORESTLANDS
- ❑ CROSS COUNTRY TRAVEL
- ❑ POWER LINES
- ❑ ROADWAYS



- ❑ Individual & Worker Safety
- ❑ Damage to private property
- ❑ Windstorm impacts
- ❑ Insurance Claims
- ❑ Decreased Fire Protection
- ❑ Increased Fire Danger
- ❑ Public Access Constraints
- ❑ Limiting Hunting & Fishing Access
- ❑ Non-Useable Lands
- ❑ Cost to Cure
- ❑ Fire Starts
- ❑ Power Reliability Issues
- ❑ Transportation Reliability Issues
- ❑ Property Devaluation

GENERATED IMPACTS

OPERATIONAL ASSETS

- DIY COMMUNITY MEMBERS
- PRIVATE CONTRACTORS
- PUBLIC WORKS & MAINTENANCE CREWS
- FORESTRY AGENCY CREWS
- LOGGING OPERATORS
- SLASH DISPOSAL FACILITIES
- TRANSPORTATION
- PROCESSING CAPACITY
- PORTS & LOGISTIC FACILITIES
- LOCAL KNOWLEDGE & EXPERTISE
- MARKETS, MARKETS, MARKETS



OPPORTUNITIES

- Resource Utilization
- Market Expansion
- Industry Stand-up
- Jobs
- Workforce Development
- Forest Management Plans



LEGACY INFRASTRUCTURE

- ✓ Capital- Manufacturing, Transportation, Forest Roads & Crossings
- ✓ Local Knowledge & Skills
- ✓ Economic (Analog to Fish Processing)
- ✓ Industry Network
- ✓ Forest Products
- ✓ Import/Export Infrastructure
- ✓ Forest Health & Fire Adaptation
- ✓ Forest Management Plans
- ✓ Tree Nurseries
- ✓ Wildlife Habitat
- ✓ Carbon

OPERATIONAL GAPS

- INVENTORY STATUS- Management/Resourcing Level & Contract Scope/Task Levels
- PLAN STATUS- Operational-Resource Alignment
- PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT STATUS- Education & Readiness, Social acceptance around forest change
- OPERATIONAL RESOURCES STATUS -(See “Opportunities”)
- SLASH DISPOSAL SITE DISTRIBUTION - another opportunity: eg. gravel pit owners
- REFORESTATION & URBAN FORESTRY DESIGN STATUS- Value-added forest selections
- LOCAL SEEDLING STOCK – (See “Opportunities”)

LESSONS FROM SPRUCE BARK BEETLE MITIGATION VERSION 1.0

- WORK TOGETHER
- COMMUNICATE & EDUCATE
- ANSWER TO PUBLIC
- WORK WITH PRIVATE PARTNERS & INDUSTRY, FACILITATE OPTIONS
- SUPPORT OPERATIONS
- DIRECT OPERATIONS WHERE NECESSARY
- UTILIZE MATERIALS WHEN POSSIBLE, DISPOSE WHEN NECESSARY
- INCORPORATE NEW INFORMATION, CONTINUALLY
- SBB VI Legacy Reports, Tactics, Prescriptions, & Partnerships

A \$35 MILLION REQUEST FOR FEDERAL ASSISTANCE

- In Mid-April 2021, a request was made by KPB through our federal delegation for appropriation in the amount of \$35 Million to address the current beetle kill situation in the Kenai Peninsula Borough.
- A good faith effort was made to estimate programmatic needs to address a range of efforts to inventory, plan, provide assistance, conduct operations, promote utilization, manage slash, reinforce hazard & fire response mechanisms, deliver education, and promote reforestation across multiple ownerships for substantial mitigation of beetle kills stands in the Kenai Peninsula Borough.



STEPPING BACK TO GATHER TOGETHER

KPB seized an opportunity to submit a request to respond to an emergent situation (that is beyond existing borough capacity).

We recognize this need to step back and solicit input in several areas critical to success and to avoid assumptions:

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- 1) Do you as property owners and managers see beetle kill as a priority situation that requires action(s)?
 - 2) Do you have the resources that you need to effectively address your own beetle kill situations?
 - 3) What capabilities and actions do you already have in place to address beetle kill concerns and opportunities?

4)What other resources do we have within the community and through private enterprise to effectively address the beetle kill situation across the landscape, including your specific interests?

5)Do you as resource managers and industry leaders see opportunities from the supply of spruce materials or the work to be done?

6)Do you have a vision of what our beetle impacted lands will look like in 5, 10 or 20 years?

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- 7) Are you willing and able to join in an effort, do you have a piece in this work or benefit?
 - 8) Is the borough the right place to coordinate landscape level beetle response programming and sub-granting?
 - 9) Do you support the borough moving in this direction?
 - 10) How would a new generation of beetle mitigation efforts look similar to or different from those conducted in the 1990's?
 - 11) Are proposed initial funding levels adequate to address needs?



STATUS

- Estimations used to make the request are without detailed plans or specific coordination
- KPB does not have a standing SBB organization
- KPB does not assume it knows what capabilities and actions you already have in place to address beetle kill concerns and opportunities, or what your vision is for the future of our forested lands and urban centers
- KPB cannot assume that you want to join in effort

KPB'S NEAR TERM ACTIONS

Directed to hire 3 roles to preposition in preparation of funding, and to develop what we can do immediately

- I) **PROGRAM OPERATIONAL PLANNER**- to initiate coordination and create playbooks (IAP)
- II) **PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT SPECIALIST**- to gather and disseminate information and education
– news that can be used
- III) **PROFESSIONAL FORESTER**- to initiate emergency timber harvest protocols on KPB lands

GUIDING A COMMUNITY THROUGH FOREST CHANGE

2021 Spruce Bark Beetle Response - Funding Proposal Kenai Peninsula Borough

Category	Subcategory	Spatial Scale/ Ownership	Timeframe/ Duration	Total Costs (thousands)
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2021 FUNDING PROPOSAL

Forest Management Plan Update	Contract Forester Consultation	KPB Lands	2 years	\$150
	Interagency Partnership	Borough-wide	3 year	\$60
Impact Assessment/ Identification	Remote Sensing/ Analysis	Borough-wide	1 year	\$100
	Site-level survey/ marking	KPB Lands	2 years	\$300
Public Information	Outreach/ Education	Borough-wide	5 years	\$500
Slash Management	KPB Sites	Borough-wide	5 years	\$1,500
	Solid Waste	Borough-wide	5 years	\$1,000
	Innovation	Borough-wide	3 years	\$500
Wildland Fire Response Capacity Building	Equipment/ Training for FD's	Borough-wide	5 years	\$1,200
	Firecrew repositioning/ project work	Borough-wide	5 years	\$1,500
Utility ROW Clearing	Assistance with severe problem areas	Borough-wide	5 years	\$1,000
Roads Mitigation	Hazard tree removal	Borough-wide	5 years	\$1,000
Industry Incentives/ Economic Development	Forest products manufacturing incentives		5 years	
	Shipping/ Transport/ Logistics support		5 years	\$5,000
Private Landowner Assistance	Firewise Cost-share	Borough-wide	5 years	\$6,000
	Home Assessments	Borough-wide	5 years	\$250
	Direct Assistance	Borough-wide		
	Seedlings	Borough-wide	10 years	\$500

2021 FUNDING PROPOSAL- continued

Municipal Partners/ Pass Through	Resource sharing with cities	KPB cities	5 years	\$1,500
	local project funding	KPB cities	5 years	\$400
KPB Lands	Inventory	KPB Lands	1 year	\$20
	Harvest Infrastructure	KPB Lands	2 years	\$2,500
	Salvage Harvests	KPB Lands	5 years	\$250
	Marketing/ Consultation	KPB Lands	2 years	\$50
	Maintenance/ Facilities/ Equipment	KPB Lands	5 years	\$600
	Technical Treatments (contracted)	KPB Lands	5 years	\$1,500
Reforestation	Research Study (university collab)	Borough-wide	2 years	\$150
	Seed Collection	Borough-wide	2 years	\$100
	Propagation	Borough-wide	10 years	\$1,500
	Site Prep	KPB Lands	10 years	\$750
	Planting	KPB Lands	10 years	\$750
Programmatic Administration/ Staff (mini Incident Management Team)	Program Manager	Borough-wide	5 years	\$800
	Grant Administrator	Borough-wide	5 years	\$600
	Forester	Borough-wide	10 years	\$1,200
	Field Techs	Borough-wide	10 years	\$700
	GIS Analyst	Borough-wide	5 years	\$600
	Administrative Assistant	Borough-wide	5 years	\$500

WHAT DOES SUCCESS LOOK LIKE?

- ✓ TIMELY AND SAFELY REMOVING DEAD AND DYING SPRUCE IN IMPACTED AREAS OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH TO AVOID HAZARDS, ACROSS MULTIPLE OWNERSHIPS
- ✓ UTILIZATION OF VALUABLE MATERIALS TO MARKETS WHERE POSSIBLE
- ✓ PROPERTY OWNERS ADEQUATELY RESOURCED TO ADDRESS INDIVIDUAL SITUATIONS
- ✓ EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT USE OF COMMON RESOURCES, WITH ACCOUNTABILITY
- ✓ WALKABLE FORESTS; FRIENDLY TO HUMANS, WILDLIFE AND FIRE PROTECTION MEASURES
- ✓ HEALTHY NEW FORESTS AND PROTECTED WATERSHEDS
- ✓ RESILIENT COMMUNITIES WITH POSITIVE LANDSCAPE RELATIONSHIPS
- ✓ DIVERSIFIED ECONOMY WITH CAPABLE WORKFORCE
- ✓ INCREASED LEVELS OF WILDFIRE PROTECTION



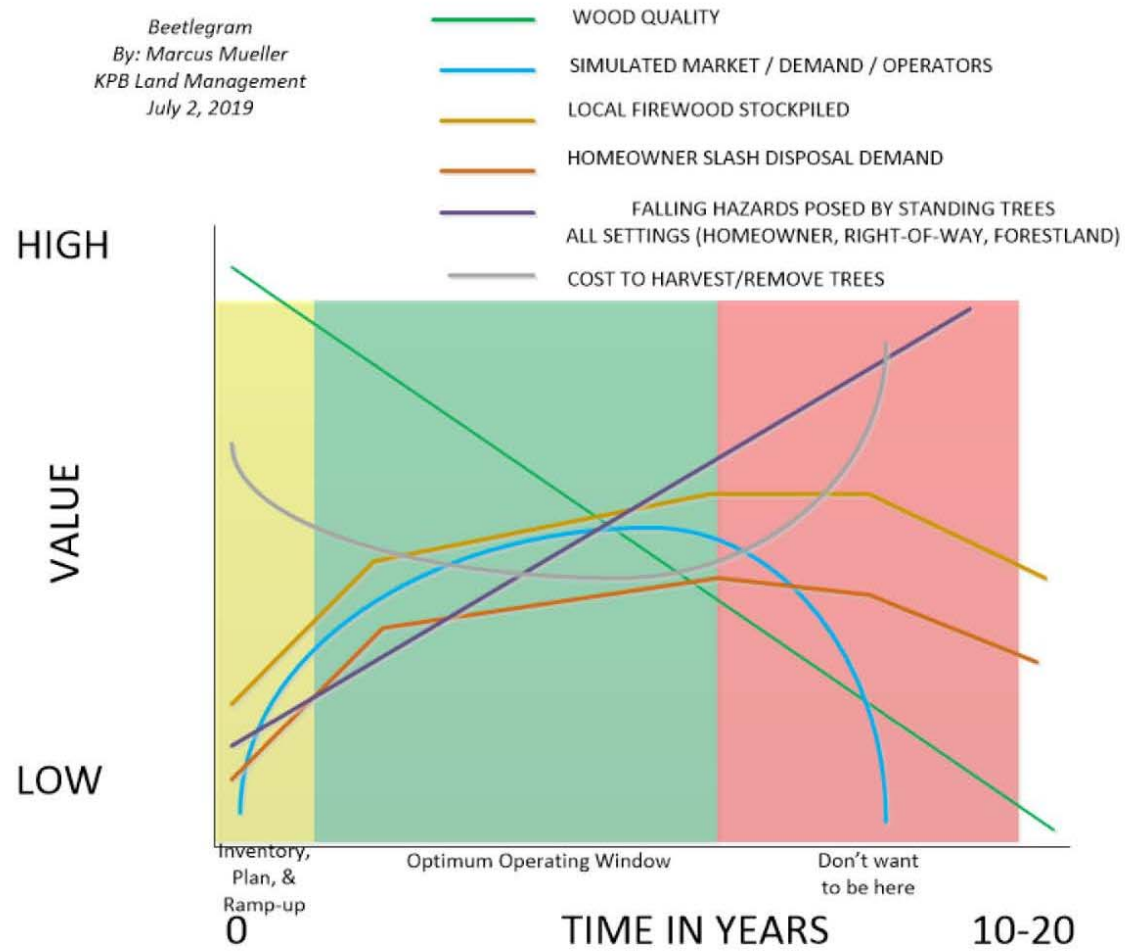
LET'S TAKE A MOMENT FOR QUESTIONS THAT YOU
AND OTHERS MAY HAVE

Up Next: Trevor Kauffman for some additional comments
and prepared questions we have for you

Land Manager's Beetlegram

SPRUCE BARK BEETLE IMPACT PROJECTIONS

Beetlegram
 By: Marcus Mueller
 KPBLand Management
 July 2, 2019



July 2021 - June 2022

Marketing Component	Description	Details / Notes	Kenai Cost
Video / Photo Shoots			
Develop more photos & videos for marketing 20 short videos / showcase life & travel in Kenai	Summer 2021 Video Shoot Winter 2022 Video Shoot Music		\$7,500
I LOVE KENAI			
Implement more City of Kenai & Chamber messaging, coordinate efforts to promote City of Kenai for locals & business owners	Website Design (Improvements) Website Maintenance / Hosting Content Creation Social Media Management	Updates & Feature Development Support of website Blogs / Copywriting / Announcements Organic Content Creation (all platforms) : Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest, YouTube	\$30,300
Business Marketing			
Expand outreach & messaging to business owners within City of Kenai and those looking to relocate to Kenai	Direct to Business Marketing	Research, strategy, consulting Advertising, direct outreach Initiatives: Old Town Kenai, Millennium Park Storefront Restoration, City of Kenai Lands Municipal Park System	\$12,000
Best Place to ALASKA Campaign			
Relocation / Travelers Marketing	Advertising (Budget Distribution TBD)	Campaign to include: Online Video Ads Online Display Ads Geofencing / Contextual Targeting	\$30,000
	Visitor Guide Ad (Airport)		\$750

Design Services / Event Promotions*

\$7,500

Travel / Expenses

Fall 2021	Airfare, Accomodations, Expenses	\$5,000
Spring 2022	Airfare, Accomodations, Expenses	\$5,000
		<hr/>
		\$98,050

***City of Kenai supported events:**

- Pumpkinfest
- Christmas Comes to Kenai
- Return of the Reds
- Kite Festival
- Eagle Cam
- Kenai Silver Salmon Derby