



For Immediate Release: May 7, 2026

## Annual Prescribed Burning Operations Start Soon

The Alaska Division of Forestry & Fire Protection is preparing for multiple prescribed burns in the Fairbanks and Matanuska-Susitna Valley areas in the coming months. Burning operations may begin as early as May 8, weather and conditions permitting.

The prescribed burns are planned for the following locations:

- **Fairbanks:** Creamer's Field Migratory Waterfowl Refuge, in partnership with the Alaska Department of Fish & Game, as early as May 11
- **Palmer:** Near the end of Maud Road, at the Kenny and Patti Barber Shooting Range and at the Palmer Forestry Office, as early as May 8
- **Sutton:** Little Granite Creek area near Sutton/Chickaloon, in partnership with the Alaska Department of Fish & Game, as early as May 11
- **Wasilla:** At the end of W. Shirley Road off N. Sitze Road, as early as May 8

Annual prescribed burns offer multiple benefits for the 2026 fire season. These controlled burns safely manage dry, grassy fuels and provide crucial training for firefighters as they prepare for the coming season. Additionally, they foster collaboration with partners to improve overall habitat management.

Further details on individual prescribed burns will be released as they become available. All planned operations are dependent on safe weather and fuel conditions. While public impact is expected to be minimal, smoke may be visible in the Fairbanks and Mat-Su areas during active burn periods. The Division of Forestry & Fire Protection is committed to developing, conserving, and maximizing the use of Alaska's natural resources in a way that aligns with the public interest.

*The Department of Natural Resources' mission is to develop, conserve, and maximize the use of Alaska's natural resources consistent with the public interest.*

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