

Summary, timeline, and budget for Yankovich Road interpretive signage project

[Alaska Fire Science Consortium](#) (AFSC), International Arctic Research Center (IARC), UAF

Key contacts:

Alison York, AFSC coordinator, ayork@alaska.edu

Zav Grabinski, AFSC science communication specialist, zav.grabinski@alaska.edu

Heather McFarland, IARC science communication lead, hmcfarland@alaska.edu

Eric Miller, BLM Alaska Fire Service fire ecologist, eamiller@blm.gov

Project background and summary:

The Yankovich Road fire started on July 16, 2021, on UAF North Campus near the ski trails.

The fire was quickly and aggressively suppressed due to its proximity to homes in the wildland-urban interface. More information about the fire and initial response is available here:

<https://akfireinfo.com/2021/07/17/crews-mopping-up-5-acre-wildfire-near-yankovich-road-in-west-fairbanks/>

Since the fire, the Alaska Fire Science Consortium has coordinated efforts to install permanent transects for fire effects monitoring in collaboration with BLM Alaska Fire Service, the National Science Foundation (NSF) EPSCoR Boreal Fires team, and the North Campus subcommittee. With permission from the North Campus subcommittee, we installed and collected data on 4 transects in areas inside and outside the fire perimeter in late summer 2021. We also developed a web page on the AFSC site with information about the fire:

<https://www.frames.gov/afsc/yankovich-road-fire>.

In 2022, the project team hosted field trips to the site for participants in the [In A Time of Change](#) art and science collaboration project and for participants in field tours organized by the [Alaska Chapter of the Society of American Foresters](#) and the [National Indian Timber Symposium](#).

These trips went very well, and we anticipate continued use of the site for such trips in the future.

This fire scar offers several significant advantages as a public education site:

- Easy parking at the LARS parking lot, a site already used by visitors and the public,
- Easy access via established trails (approximately 10 minute walk from the LARS parking lot), and
- Firefighters thoroughly cleared snags (dead trees) and other hazards from the fire site, minimizing safety concerns for visitors.

We propose installing a series of interpretive signs with text and graphics to enable visitors to access the site and provide a short self-guided tour of the fire scar and surrounding area to improve public awareness of wildland fire in Alaska's boreal forest, how the burned area is likely to recover over time, and the need for Alaskan homeowners to prepare their property for fire.

Specific details are still being worked out at this time. We anticipate

- 4-5 small (approx 12x18) signs to assist visitors in wayfinding,
- 4-5 medium (approx 18x30) signs to point out specific elements of the tour,
- 2 large (approx 24x40) signs (one summarizing the tour in the LARS parking lot, and one at the most severely burned part of the scar)

Draft text and graphics are being compiled by the project team here:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1H0zsvaLLkhS605GzOo4jZXpA8cSGfK6w1gYN3P6KtOY/edit>.

AFSC will also draw on the information compiled in [Alaska's Changing Wildfire Environment](#)

Timeline

July 12. Meet with North Campus subcommittee to introduce and discuss project

July 15-25. Work with Eric Miller to revise draft materials

Late July/early August. Submit draft materials to Interagency Wildland Fire Education and Prevention Committee for review (2 week turnaround)

Aug 20-25. Submit art work to vendor—estimated 30 day turnaround.

Budget

Sign fabrication and shipping estimate \$10,000 (AFSC, funding must be spent by Sept 30, 2022)

Graphic design \$7200 (EPSCoR, funding must be spent by Sept 30, 2022)

Installation by Facilities Services \$750-1000 (AFSC, can be after Sept 30, 2022)