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## **Advisory Announcement**

***For Immediate Release: June 03, 2025***

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### **Prescribed Burns Planned for Delta Junction Bison Range in June 2025**

**Delta Junction, AK** – The Alaska Division of Forestry & Fire Protection (DOF), in partnership with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG), plans to conduct prescribed burns at the Delta Junction Bison Range (DJBR) beginning in June 2025, as weather and fuel conditions allow. The burns will cover approximately 2,300 acres in the Panoramic and Gerstle field complexes.

Since 2017, prescribed fires have been conducted annually in these areas to maintain grass and shrub fields. The 2025 burns will expand these efforts, targeting decadent black spruce stands to promote early successional vegetation, such as birch, willow, and aspen—key forage species for moose and upland birds.

“Prescribed burns are one of our most effective tools for improving habitat at a scale that benefits wildlife populations,” said John Wagoner, Conservation Coordinator with ADFG. “These burns mimic the natural effects of wildfire but are conducted under controlled conditions to achieve habitat goals while ensuring safety for the public and staff.”

#### **Public Impact and Safety Measures**

Smoke may be visible in Delta Junction during the burn and for days or weeks afterward. ADFG will monitor air quality and provide public updates on where to find air quality information. Some areas within the DJBR may be temporarily closed for safety, with signs posted at parking areas and along the highway.

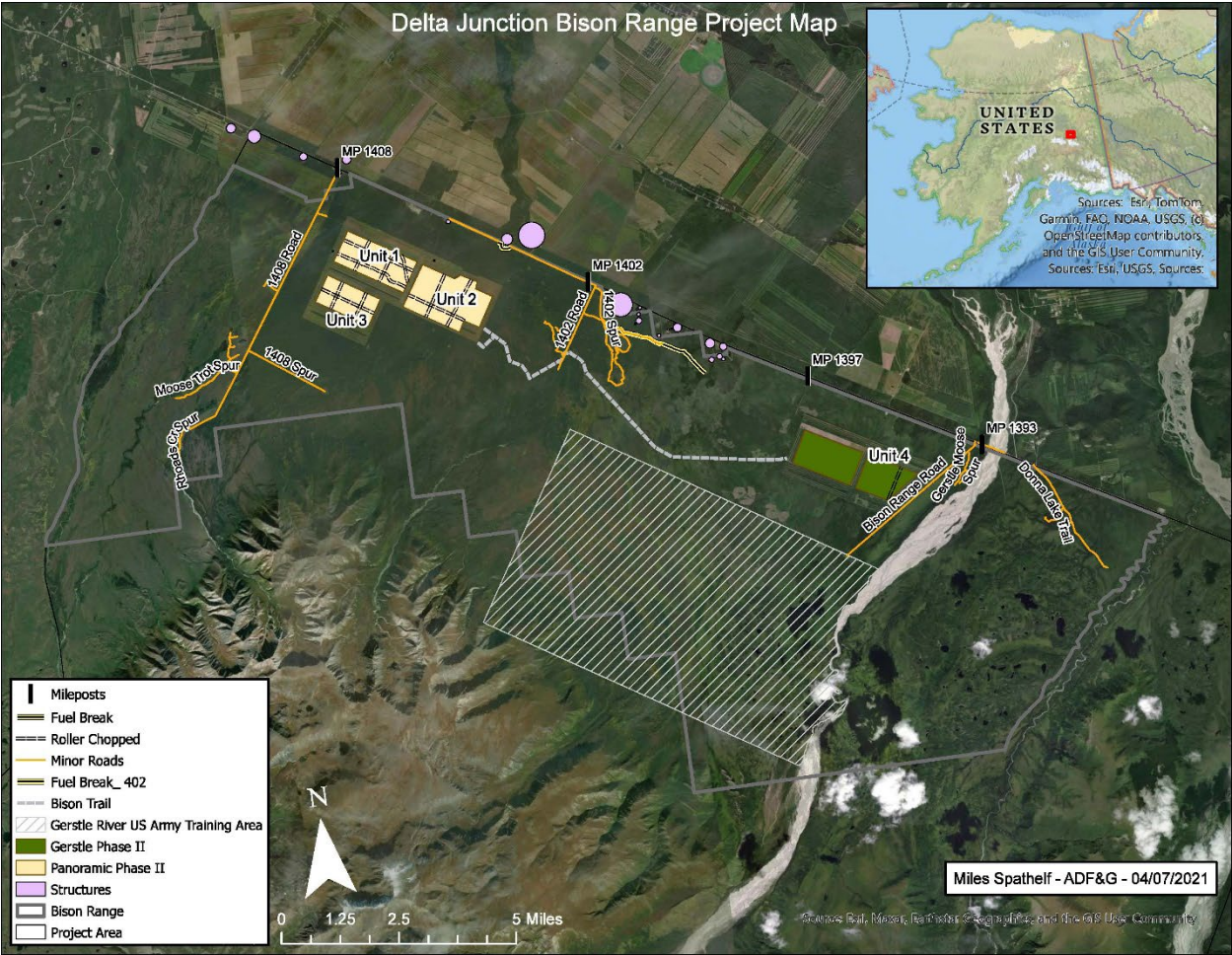
The burn will also serve as a training opportunity for DOF wildland firefighters preparing for the upcoming fire season. Approximately 12 personnel will conduct the operation, which may require multiple phases. Burns will only proceed if weather conditions—including temperature, wind speed, and humidity—meet strict burn plan criteria. A small test burn will be conducted before full ignition begins to ensure conditions are favorable.

For updates, including potential closures and air quality information, please stay tuned to local announcements.

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