



DOF Daily WildFire Update

July 28, 2021



2021 Alaska Wildland Fire Numbers

As of Wednesday, July 28



- **Number of wildfires: 347**
- **Acres burned statewide: 208,509**
- **New fires yesterday: 1**
- **Current active fires: 52**
- **Current number of staffed fires: 3**
- **Personnel assigned to fires: 29**
- **Human-caused fires: 217**
- **Lightning-caused fires: 109**
- **Natural-caused fires: 6**
- **Undetermined fire causes: 15**



White Mountain Crew members pack up backhaul from the Munson Creek Fire to be returned to the Division of Forestry's State Fire Warehouse. Tony Peterson/Alaska DNR-Division of Forestry

Fire activity

Munson Creek #235, Fairbanks Area, 54,050 acres, Limited protection, 52 miles E of Fairbanks near Chena Hot Springs.

- Fire received wetting ran on Tuesday and Wednesday to further reduce fire behavior.
- Fairbanks Area Forestry conducted a helicopter reconnaissance flight on Tuesday which revealed only a few smokes in the fire area.
- All resources were demobilized from the fire on Tuesday and the fire was placed in Monitor status. Fairbanks Area Forestry staff will be monitoring the fire daily with road patrols and helicopter reconnaissance flights as needed.
- Firefighters have removed hose and sprinklers from all structures except those between Miles 52-55 on Chena Hot Springs Road.
- Alaska State Parks reopened the Angel Rocks, Angel Rocks to Chena Hot Springs, Angel Creek Hillside and Chena Dome trails and trailheads on Wednesday morning. All facilities in the Chena River State Recreation Area are now open.
- Estimated cost to date is \$2.5 million.

Marten Creek Fire, Upper Yukon Zone, 626 acres, Full protection, 13 miles east of Venetie

- BLM Alaska Fire Service is establishing a Type 3 incident management team that will be based in Fort Yukon to manage the fire.
- Fire size reduced due to better mapping with satellite imagery.

- Fire was active on Tuesday despite light precip throughout the day. Fire was expected to receive more precip today.
- Fire is moving east in direction of Venetie and 2-3 cabins that are 5-6 miles from the fire.
- North Star Crew arrived on Wednesday afternoon and will work to open up an old fire break cut around Venetie while eight smokejumpers work on setting up structure protection at cabins.
- Estimated cost to date: \$250,000.

Discovery Creek, Upper Yukon Zone, 292 acres, Modified protection, 30 miles northwest of Venetie in Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

- Acreage increase due to fire growth and better mapping.
- Light precip on fire overnight and on Wednesday.
- UAF Nanooks Crew will be mobilized to fire tomorrow for allotment protection.
- Estimated cost to date: \$35,000.

Alaska crew status

Pioneer Peak Interagency Hotshot Crew

- Assigned to the 477-acre Chin Fire about 60 miles northeast of Ely, Nev. The fire was 25% contained on Wednesday and full containment is anticipated on July 31. In addition to Pioneer Peak, there is one Type 2 initial attack crew, three engines, a bulldozer, a water tender and a Type 3 helicopter assigned to the incident.

Chena Interagency Hotshot Crew

- Currently assigned to the 7,846-acre Green Ridge Fire in the Umatilla National Forest in Oregon. The fire was started by lightning on July 7 and is 15% contained. There are 228 personnel assigned to the fire. It is being managed by a Type 2 California IMT.

Midnight Sun Interagency Hotshot Crew

- On preposition order in Montana for Northern Rockies Coordination Center.

White Mountain Type 2IA Crew

- On days off after being demobed from Munson Creek Fire.

Gannett Glacier Type 2IA Crew

- At home base at Mat-Su Area Forestry. Tentatively scheduled to fly south to Lower 48 on NICC jet Friday.

Tanana Chiefs Type 2IA Crew

- On days off at home base at Tok Area Forestry. Tentatively scheduled to fly south to Lower 48 on NICC jet Friday.

Yukon Type 2 Crew

- At home base at Kenai/Kodiak Area Forestry. Will be available on Wednesday.

UAF Nanooks Type 2 Crew

- On days off after returning from preposition assignment at Valdez/Copper River Forestry. Will be assigned to Discovery Creek Fire near Venetie.

North Star Type 2 Crew

- Currently assigned to Marten Creek Fire 13 miles east of Venetie in Upper Yukon Zone.

Alaska Fire Weather

Wet conditions expected through tonight across the West Coast and Western Interior. The Central and Eastern Interior will see rain totals up to a quarter inch as well, while the Upper Tanana Valley remains mostly rain free. The West Coast will remain wet going into the weekend, with drier and warmer conditions for the Eastern Interior. Despite the warming trend, daytime minimum RH's expected to remain above 30 percent going into the weekend.

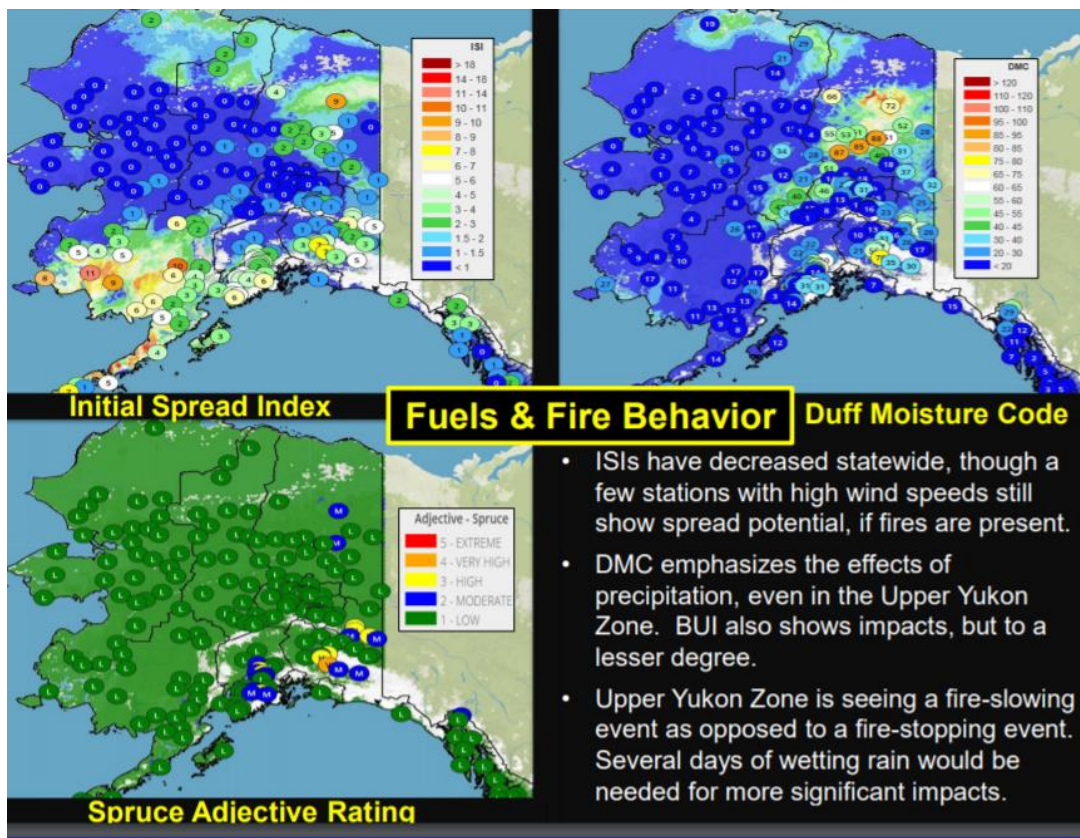
SHORT-TERM FORECAST

- Southern Alaska will be mostly dry this week.
- Cool and damp for northern two-thirds of mainland Alaska; wettest in the west.
- Western Alaska stays wet.
- Middle of Upper Yukon Zone not getting enough rain to slow the season more than 1-2 days.
- Tomorrow, back to a drying trend in the east

LONG-RANGE FORECAST

- Models continue to struggle with medium to longer range flow directions.
- Ridge builds back over Canada this weekend, which means warmer and drier for eastern Alaska once again.
- Upper Yukon likely to remain the area with most active fire behavior.

Fire danger/potential



Alaska resources headed to Lower 48

As fire season winds down in Alaska, more resources on both the state and federal sides are being made available for assignments in the Lower 48.

Both DOF and the BLM Alaska Fire Service have come up with draw down plans to ensure there are enough resources remaining in Alaska to provide seven-day coverage for initial attack on any new fires. Here's a list of resources currently in the Lower 48 and resources that are headed south soon.

Crews

- Alaska's three hotshot crews – Chena, Midnight Sun and Pioneer Peak – are all in the Lower 48. The Chena Hotshots are working on the Green Ridge Fire in Oregon; Pioneer Peak Hotshots are on the Chin Fire in Nevada; and the Midnight Sun Hotshots are prepositioned in Montana awaiting an assignment.
- Two BLM Alaska Fire Service Type 2 contract crews – CATG and S.E.S. – traveled to the Lower 48 last week and are assigned to the Tamarack Fire in Nevada.
- The Gannett Glacier Type 2 Initial Attack Crew, the U.S. Forest Service R10 Type 2 IA Crew, the Tanana Chiefs Type 2IA Crew and the Capstone contract crew are tentatively scheduled to fly south on a National Interagency Coordination Center jet on Friday.

Smokejumpers

- 23 BLM Alaska Fire Service smokejumpers are on assignments in the Lower 48.

Aircraft

- Tanker 52, one of DOF's two contract air tankers from Conair, left Alaska two weeks ago and is based at the Moses Lake Tanker Base in Moses Lake, Washington, where it has been flying on fires pretty much every day it has been available.
- Tanker 540, the second DOF contract air tanker, flew south Wednesday to marry up with Tanker 52 in Moses Lake, Wash. to support fire suppression efforts in Washington, Oregon and Idaho.
- The BLM Alaska Fire Service has sent four helicopters to the L48, two Type 3s and two Type 2s.
- The BLM Alaska Fire Service air attack plane, ASM B9, is in the L48.
- One smokejumper jump ship on assignment in the L48.
- DOF's air attack platform, ASM A4, will be flying to the National Interagency Coordination Center this week.

UAS

- The BLM Alaska Fire Service made it's Unmanned Aerial Systems module available for assignment in the L48 on Tuesday.

Engines

- A strike team of 5 DOF engines are enroute to Oregon through the Northwest Compact and are scheduled to arrive in Tacoma on Wednesday. The engines will be staffed by DOF personnel flown to the Lower 48 and will be assigned to the Elbow Creek Fire in Oregon's Umatilla National Forest.

Alaska IMT briefs Oregon Gov. Kate Brown on Bootleg Fire

The Alaska Type 1 Incident Management Team under the command of DOF Wildland Fire and Aviation Program Chief Norm McDonald played host to Oregon Gov. Kate Brown (photo at right) at the Bootleg Fire Incident Command Post in Klamath Falls on Wednesday.



McDonald briefed the governor on the progress more than 1,900 firefighters are making to contain the 413,400-acre fire in southern Oregon, which is currently the largest fire in the United States. The fire was 53% contained on Wednesday. The fire did receive a wetting rain on Tuesday, which has helped moderate fire behavior and allowed firefighters to go direct on parts of the fire. McDonald also presented the governor with an Alaska IMT polo shirt.



National Situation Report for July 27

**National Interagency Coordination Center
Incident Management Situation Report
Wednesday, July 28, 2021– 0730 MDT
National Preparedness Level 5
National Fire Activity**

Initial attack activity: Light (135 fires)
New large incidents: 6
Large fires contained: 4
Uncontained large fires: 66
Area Command teams committed: 0
NIMOs committed: 1
Type 1 IMTs committed: 9
Type 2 IMTs committed: 19

Active Incident Resource Summary							
GACC	Incidents	Cumulative Acres	Crews	Engines	Helicopters	Total Personnel	Change in Personnel
AICC	4	59,290	1	7	0	53	-4
NWCC	21	705,938	152	419	63	6,978	-334
ONCC	4	354,834	92	434	34	5,717	182
OSCC	5	6,641	20	37	9	707	280
NRCC	40	371,354	71	326	37	4,919	234
GBCC	11	93,135	57	100	39	2,218	-219
SWCC	2	17,393	0	1	0	6	0
RMCC	11	18,786	13	53	8	796	-86
EACC	1	88	2	0	2	111	3
SACC	1	762	0	1	2	17	0
Total	100	1,628,222	408	1,378	194	21,522	56

Preparedness Levels by GACC: Northern Rockies - PL5; Pacific Northwest - PL5; Northern California – PL4; Great Basin – PL3; Southern California – PL3; Eastern – PL3; Rocky Mountain – PL2; Southwest – PL2; Alaska – PL2; Southern – PL1.

Fires and Acres Year-to-Date (by Protection):

Area		BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	ST/OT	USFS	TOTAL
Alaska Area	FIRES	0	105	0	0	216	11	332
	ACRES	0	136,135	0	0	69,243	5	205,384
Northwest Area	FIRES	155	190	25	9	1,521	320	2,220
	ACRES	47,796	13,824	1,179	22	77,516	1,057,214	1,197,553
Northern California Area	FIRES	43	25	4	21	2,198	348	2,639
	ACRES	38	268	332	1	41,926	157,949	200,515
Southern California Area	FIRES	16	93	12	33	2,786	370	3,310
	ACRES	1,299	3,510	199	3,015	16,860	9,467	34,351
Northern Rockies Area	FIRES	1,051	65	22	5	984	554	2,681
	ACRES	73,658	10,194	2,690	51	173,624	150,612	410,829
Great Basin Area	FIRES	35	545	51	18	610	318	1,577
	ACRES	3,005	54,570	10	2,191	55,358	40,800	155,936
Southwest Area	FIRES	478	176	9	22	334	835	1,854
	ACRES	24,878	83,887	1,528	3,362	33,217	490,649	637,523
Rocky Mountain Area	FIRES	526	265	6	17	453	222	1,489
	ACRES	6,035	22,301	1,260	1,116	82,432	24,392	137,536
Eastern Area	FIRES	439	0	22	13	6,778	411	7,663
	ACRES	12,373	0	13,276	560	32,075	15,859	74,144
Southern Area	FIRES	377	0	53	36	12,407	371	13,244
	ACRES	28,685	0	11,844	8,321	262,080	27,346	338,278
TOTAL FIRES:		3,120	1,464	204	174	28,287	3,760	37,009
TOTAL ACRES:		197,768	324,692	32,319	18,640	844,336	1,974,296	3,392,053

Ten Year Average Fires (2011 – 2020 as of today)	36,817
Ten Year Average Acres (2011 – 2020 as of today)	3,739,369

Fire Information Resources

- www.akfireinfo.com – Word Press blog with daily fire updates and other information
- <https://fire.ak.blm.gov/content/aicc/sitreport/AICC%20Situation%20Report.pdf> – Daily Alaska wildfire situation report from Alaska Interagency Coordination Center with daily rundown of fire activity in Alaska.
- <https://blm-egis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/index.html#/a23a625f4d18412ea13cffeefcbe7f5e> - Alaska Interagency Coordination Center dashboard with all sorts of nifty fire information.
- <https://fire.ak.blm.gov/> - Alaska Interagency Coordination Center
- <https://www.facebook.com/AK.Forestry> - Division of Forestry Facebook page. All info that is posted to akfireinfo is posted here as well, along with other fire information. Info from both DOF and AFS is posted here.
- <https://www.facebook.com/BLMAFS> -BLM Alaska Fire Service Facebook page. All info that is posted to akfireinfo is posted here as well, along with other fire information. Info from both DOF and AFS is posted here.
- <https://www.nifc.gov/nicc/sitreprt.pdf> - Daily national situation report from the National Interagency Coordination Center with a rundown of fire activity in all regions of the United States and Canada.