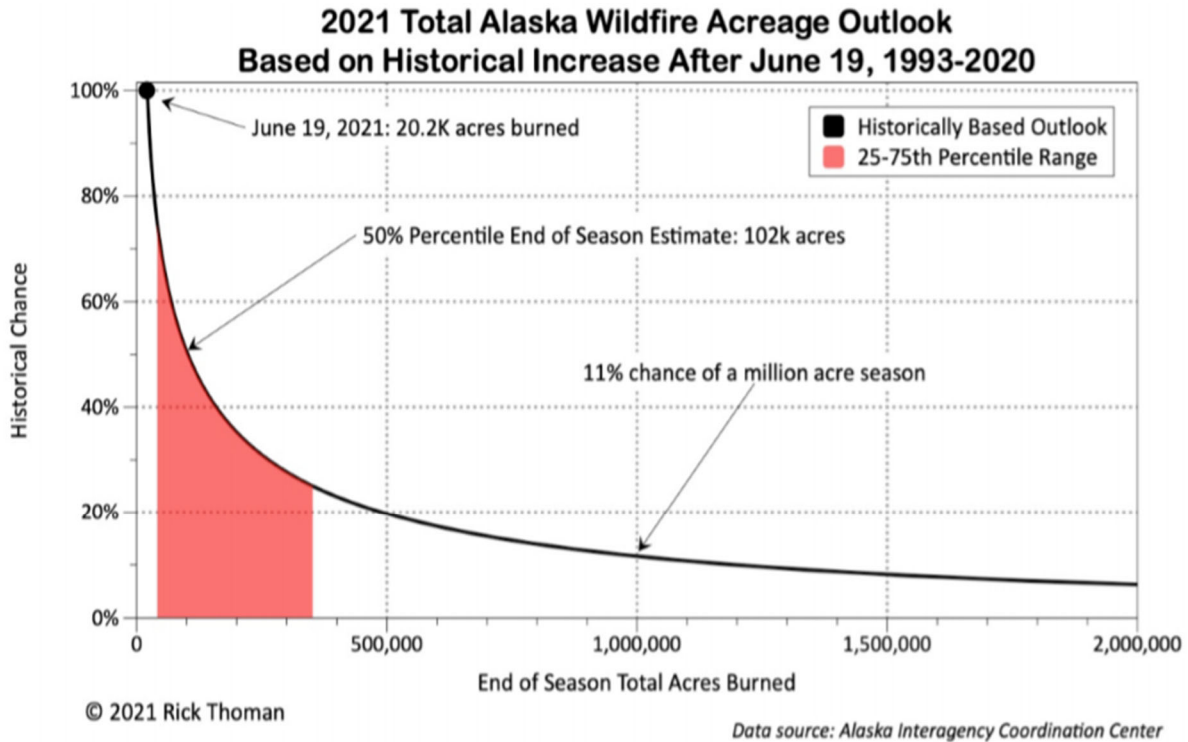


DOF Daily WildFire Update

June 21, 2021



This graph shows the chances of Alaska having a 100,000-acre and 1,000,000-acre fire season this summer based on historical averages.

Quick Hits

- A group of four Fire Boss water scoopers and a Bird Dog (lead plane) from Alberta ordered through the Northwest Compact for Alaska fire support arrived in Palmer Sunday and will be routed to Fairbanks to assist with active fires and new starts in the Interior.
- About a dozen overhead personnel have been ordered through the Northwest Compact for various overhead positions.
- As of Monday morning, there were 10 staffed fires in Alaska with 543 personnel assigned. Seven of those fires are being managed by DOF.
- All DOF agency and contract crews are either on days off or assigned to fires, including all available EFF crews.
- For the season, we are at 226 fires for a total of 27,231 acres burned, still a very low number for this time of year.



Fire Bosses parked at Palmer Airport on Monday, June 21.

Haystack Fire (#196)

Acres: Estimated 927

Containment: 31%

Personnel assigned: 252

Location: 18 miles N of Fairbanks

Weather: Cool and wet again today and then a high-pressure ridge will build, bringing 80-degree temps starting Tuesday.

- Fire received one-half inch of rain on Sunday from passing weather front that tempered fire behavior.
- More rain expected today but warming and drying trend to begin Tuesday with 80-degree temps.
- Public meeting scheduled for Tuesday at 7 p.m. in laundromat in Haystack subdivision.
- Firefighters constructed another 2 miles of saw lines with hose-lays along the steep slopes on the east side of the fire.
- Crews continue to find and cool hot spots burning up to 12 inches deep into the forest floor.
- Engines remain stationed in the Haystack Subdivision to evaluate wildfire risks to homes and recommend actions to reduce hazards.

Straight Creek Fire (#244)

Acres: 20

Containment: 0%

Personnel assigned: 30

Location: 28 miles SW of Fairbanks, 2 miles north of Parks Highway near Mile 325 behind Skinny Dick's bar.

Weather: Wet and cool before a warming, drying trend begins Tuesday and 80-degree temps return.



Before and after pictures of the Straight Creek Fire about 28 miles southwest of Fairbanks and 2 miles north of the Parks Highway near Mile 325. The photo on the left was taken at approximately 4 p.m. Sunday, June 20 and the photon the right was taken at approximately 7 p.m. after multiple retardant and water drops. Photos by DOF Air Attack Officer Tim Whitesell.

- Quick and aggressive aerial attack Sunday helped keep the fire in check until firefighters on the ground could be mobilized to the fire.
- Fire was boxed in by retardant drops on 3 sides and a creek drainage on the other side.
- Thirty firefighters worked until late Sunday night to get a bulldozer line cleared around the entire fire perimeter.
- 12 smokejumpers were initially deployed on the fire and the Yukon type 2 initial attack crew was flown in from the Haystack Fire to help with initial attack.
- Smokejumpers will be released today and the Fairbanks #1 Type 2 crew will be flown to the fire after finishing work on the Winter Trail Fire (#194) north of Fairbanks.
- Very good catch by Fairbanks Area forestry station; this could have developed into a much bigger fire and we were fortunate to have the aerial resources available to hammer hard and early.

George Lake Fire #225

Acres: 6

Containment: 80%

Personnel assigned: 20

Location: 40 miles SE of Delta Jct

Weather: Occasional showers on fire today before warming and drying trend begins Tuesday with high winds forecasts.

- 10% increase in containment; no new growth and minimal fire activity.
- Baker River Hotshot crew continues to secure edge of the fire and perform “micro mop-up” to search for hot spots.
- Mop-up expected to be complete by tomorrow and tentative demobilization planned for Tuesday.

About Mountain Fire #193

Acres: 2,135

Containment: 60%

Personnel assigned: 94

Location: 6 miles south of McGrath along the east bank of Kuskokwim River.

Weather: Cool and overcast.

- Fire activity has been moderated with rain and overcast skies..
- Increase of 16% in containment.
- Scattered pockets of smoldering fuels.
- Firefighters will continue to secure the fire’s edge and begin mop up to 300 feet in off containment lines.
- Ten smokejumpers scheduled to be released today to be available for initial attack.
- Structures in Cranberry Ridge Subdivision have been prepped as a long-term contingency plan.
- One allotment three miles south of the fire has been identified and an allotment protection contingency plan is in place.
- The Pioneer Peak Hotshots, Two Type 2 crews, and 24 Smokejumpers are assigned.

Loon Lake Fire #180

Containment: 100%

Acres: 102

Personnel: 25

Location: Remote part of Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, 10 miles northeast of Sterling

Weather: Cool and overcast.

- No new growth or fire activity with help from cloud cover and precip.
- Transitioned from Type 3 to Type 4 organization Saturday.
- UAF Nanooks Crew have completed mop up and is wrapping up some rehab items before being released from the fire today.
- Fire will be placed in monitor status once Nanooks are demobed.

North Fork #216

Containment: 100%

Acres: 3.2

Personnel: 23

Location: 20 miles NE of Nikolai.

Weather: Warm, dry day on Sunday. Cloudy and cooler today.

- Personnel extinguished all visible smoke on the perimeter and interior of the fire.
- Crews will be gridding for hot spots today.
- Tentative demobilization scheduled for Thursday.

Winter Tail #194

Containment: 90%

Acres: 37

Personnel: 21

Location: 14 miles NE of Fairbanks, less than 1 mile from Ft. Knox Gold Mine.

Weather: Cooler and overcast today with possible rain before warming trend begins on Tuesday.

- Fire received substantial rain on Sunday.
- Increased acreage (from 20 to 37) was due to more accurate mapping.
- Minimal fire activity and no hot spots found during gridding.
- Crew is prepping backhaul to be flown off fire.
- Fairbanks #1 crew will be demobilized today and moved to the Straight Creek Fire that started yesterday near Mile 325 of the Parks Hwy.

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.