



Alaska National Parks Wildland Fire Information

Noatak National Preserve & Kobuk Valley National Park July 5, 2012 @ 12:00 pm

Warm, dry weather, thunderstorms with lightning, and wildfires are common occurrences in the northwestern portion of Alaska this time of year. But the current fire activity marks year three of an above average number of fire starts in Noatak NP. In 2010 28 fires started between July 2-4 and from July 7-9, 2011, 12 ignited. Eight fires are currently burning in Noatak NP and one is in Kobuk Valley NP.

New Fire...

Noatak NP, Feniak Fire – ref#329

- Located 78 miles northwest of Ambler and 102 miles northeast of Kiana
- Lightning-ignited
- 240 acres as of 7/4
- Upon discovery, the fire was 15% active, backing in tundra, spreading to the south. Two smokejumpers are currently protecting a sensitive site (native allotment).

Fire Updates...

Noatak NP, Kungiakrok Creek Fire – ref#321

- Located 38 miles northeast of Noatak and south of Tulugak Lake
- 2000 acres as of 7/4
- Smokejumpers are working hard to protect structures and two sensitive sites and minimize fire growth to the north and east. Due to a sudden wind shift and a 100% active fire that was very resistant to control on 7/4, the Incident Commander requested eight more smokejumpers and air support. Sixteen jumpers are now working on the fire.

Noatak NP, Kayat Fire – ref#316

- Located 16 miles northeast of Noatak and 5,000 feet south of Eli River
- 355 acres as of 7/4
- Due to the fire's close proximity to Noatak village, eight smokejumpers are working hard to put the fire out. The Incident Commander declared the fire contained on 7/4 and anticipates it will be controlled today.

*At this time all of the fires listed below do not threaten life, property, or sensitive sites. On 7/4 a few fires (designated with +) did grow larger. Alaska Fire Service will map the fires from the air and document fire behavior observations. Four fires (designated with an *) will be accessed for potential resource needs over the long duration. Due to the intense fire season in the lower 48, Alaskan firefighters are being prioritized and some have and will be sent south to help out.*

+* Noatak NP, Uvgoon Creek Fire #2 – ref#320

- Located 23 miles northeast of Noatak in a 1999 burn
- 200 acres as of 7/4
- The majority of activity is on the fire's northern side.

+* Noatak NP, Uvgoon Creek Fire #1 – ref#318

- Located 23 miles northeast of Noatak in a 1999 burn
- 640 acres as of 7/4
- The fire's southern perimeter was active.

*** Noatak NP, Agashashok #1 Fire – ref#324**

- Located 22 miles east of Noatak; 20 acres

*** Noatak NP, Agashashok #2 Fire – ref#323**

- Located 19 miles southeast of Noatak; 10 acres

Noatak NP, Avan Creek Fire – ref#326

- Located 40 miles northeast of Noatak, nearly 7 miles north of the Noatak River; 20 acres

Kobuk Valley NP, Nekakte #2 – ref#317

- Located 24 miles northwest of Ambler, 56 miles northeast of Kiana in a 2012 burn that was declared out; 1 acre

Ikalukrok Creek Fire – ref#325

- Erroneously reported in Noatak NP, located 12 miles west of the preserve boundary, 30 miles north of Noatak, 15 miles northwest of the Noatak River; 1 acre

Up to date fire information and maps are posted at
<http://www.nps.gov/noat/parkmgmt/currentfireinfo.htm> and
<http://www.nps.gov/kova/parkmgmt/currentfireinfo.htm>

For More Information,

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